



Washington State Minority and Justice Commission (WSMJC)
Friday, April 27, 2012 (8:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
SeaTac Office Center, 18000 International Blvd,
Ste 1106, SeaTac, Washington



MEETING NOTES

Members Present:

Justice Charles W. Johnson, Co-Chair
Judge Deborah D. Fleck
Sandra E. Madrid, Ph.D.
Commissioner Joyce J. McCown
Karen W. Murray
Judge Mariane C. Spearman
Jeffrey C. Sullivan
Judge Vicki J. Toyohara
Judge Dennis D. Yule

Guests:

Brian Rowe

AOC Staff Present:

Jennifer Creighton
Myra Downing
Monto Morton
Sarah Veele-Brice, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:

Judge Mary I. Yu, Co-Chair
Jeffrey A. Beaver
Ann E. Benson
Robert C. Boruchowitz
Robert S. Chang
Bonnie J. Glenn
Jeffrey E. Hall
Judge Donald J. Horowitz
Uriel Iñiguez
Yemi Fleming Jackson
Eric A. Jones
Carla C. Lee
Judge LeRoy McCullough
Rosa M. Melendez
Carlene M. Placide
P. Diane Schneider
Judge Gregory D. Sypolt

The meeting was called to order by Justice Charles W. Johnson.

NOVEMBER 4, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

TEAM ORIENTED STAFFING OF COMMISSION

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Gender and Justice Commission, Co-Chairs of the Minority and Justice Commission, and the Washington State Court Administrator approved a staff team approach in the operation of the commissions. Myra Downing has been designated as the lead staff person for both commissions. She will lead the other staff members: Monto Morton, Pam Dittman, and Paula Odegaard. The staff team is directly responsible for the work of the commissions. The commissions will report to the Administrative Committee of the Washington State Supreme Court twice a year.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that there are six vacancies on the Commission. After some discussion, possible appointments were recommended: Justice Debra Stephens; Judge Vickie Churchill; Chief Justice Anita Dupris; Judge Janice Ellis; Judge Robbi Ferron; Judge Raquel Montoya-Lewis; Judge Theresa Pouley; Judge Stephen Shelton; Chief Justice Jane Smith; Mark Hamitomo; Russell Hauge; Mark Rowe; Dan Satterberg; Blaine Tamaki; and Kendee Yamaguchi.

COMMISSION BUDGET

It was reported that the Commission will contract with YouGov to provide an electronic survey of Washington State regarding the public perceptions of the justice system. The contract will cost between \$28,000 to \$31,000.

JUVENILE DISPROPORTIONALITY PRESENTATION TO THE SUPREME COURT

The presentation was held March 28, 2012, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Temple of Justice. A reception was held afterwards.

The TVW webcast, report and other documents can be found at:

<http://www.law.washington.edu/about/racetaskforce/>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

It was reported that the Committee is working to develop a judicial education needs survey for judicial officers. The purpose of the survey is to determine the knowledge and experience of judicial officers and their needs for further education in regards to racial and ethnic bias issues. The information gained from this survey will be utilized to create education proposals for judicial conferences and other educational opportunities.

Juvenile Justice Committee

It was reported that Carla Lee, Center for Children and Youth Justice, has been appointed chair of the Committee.

Outreach Committee

It was reported that the Committee recommends to the Commission that "We Are America," by Al Doggett be selected as the artwork for developing the Commission poster. The attending members of the Commission agreed to the recommendation. Mr. Doggett has agreed to give the Commission the right to reproduce the artwork for the posters at no cost. The posters will be printed on an as needed basis by the Administrative Office of the Court's copy center at about \$1.35 each. Justice Charles Johnson requested that the artist be asked what the cost is to purchase the original artwork. It was recommended that the posters be printed in a smaller format.

Outreach Committee IT Work Group

Brian Rowe, Chair of the Access to Justice Board of Technology Committee, introduced the discussion of the use of on-line media and offers his knowledge and expertise to the Commission. It was recommended that the Washington Courts Web site could utilize a translation feature for multiple languages similar to airline Web sites. The use of social media was discussed, specifically Facebook. It was pointed out that Facebook and other on-line media requires regular administration which amounts to one day a week. It was recommended that the *Equal Justice* newsletter be embedded into e-mails using a private vendor like Constant Contact (cost estimate \$15/month) as opposed to distributed in a PDF format, to increase readership and establish the ability to collect data on readership. Another recommendation was to utilize a similar format to the judicial news clippings where the individual articles would be separately viewable in PDF format.

Race and Justice Research Project Committee

Dr. Sarah Veele-Brice, Senior Research Associate, Washington State Center for Court Research, reported on the progress of the Race and Justice Research Project. A company called YouGov will be contracted to distribute a survey, developed by the researchers, via online to gather research data on the perceptions of the Washington State justice system by persons of color. YouGov will complete this task by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2012. The cost for YouGov's services is estimated at around \$31,000. It was pointed out that the researchers (Dr. Mark Peffley, Dr. Jon Hurwitz, and Dr. Jeff Mondak) are working on the project at no cost. The next step of the project is to work with community groups to gather more research data. The race and ethnicities covered by YouGov will be Caucasian, African-American, Asian, and Hispanic. It was discussed about the importance of gathering information from Native Americans and that they should be included in the second phase of the project if possible.

Workforce Diversity Committee

Judge Deborah Fleck, Chair, reported on the activity of the Committee and referenced the April 18, 2012, meeting minutes. She stated that the Committee discussed having Judge Mary Yu give a short presentation to King County Superior Court Judges regarding obtaining and utilizing externs. It was pointed out that there are six open judicial positions on the court and there are no persons of color applying for those positions, as of yet.

2012 Commission Meetings

- Friday, July 27, 2012
- Friday, October 5, 2012