



**Washington State Minority and Justice Commission (WSMJC)**  
Friday, June 14, 2013, (8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)  
Perkins Coie, Seattle, Washington



**MEETING NOTES**

**Commission Members Present**

Justice Charles W. Johnson, Co-Chair  
Judge Mary I. Yu, Co-Chair  
Ann E. Benson  
Robert C. Boruchowitz  
Judge Vickie I. Churchill  
Jennifer Davis-Sheffield  
Callie Dietz (via phone)  
Judge Deborah D. Fleck  
Bonnie J. Glenn (via phone)  
Uriel Iñiguez  
Yemi Jackson  
Carla C. Lee  
Sandra E. Madrid, Ph.D.  
Commissioner Joyce J. McCown  
Rosa Melendez  
Karen W. Murray (via phone)  
P. Diane Schneider  
Jeffrey C. Sullivan  
Judge Mariane C. Spearman  
Travis Stearns  
Justice Debra Stephens (via phone)  
Jeffrey Sullivan  
Judge Vicki J. Toyohara  
Judge Dennis D. Yule

**Members Not Present**

Judge Alicea-Galvan  
Jeffrey A. Beaver  
Russell Hauge  
Judge LeRoy McCullough  
Judge Gregory D. Sypolt

**AOC Staff Present**

Myra Downing  
Pam Dittman  
Cynthia Delostrinos  
Kathy Bradley

**Other Guests**

Anne Lee  
Janera Castillo (sp?)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:45 a.m. The meeting notes from the April 5, 2013, Minority and Justice Commission meeting were approved.

**CHAIR REPORTS**

**Staffing Update**

Please welcome Cynthia Delostrinos. Cynthia is joining the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Diversity Team as the Court Program Analyst staff person for the Minority and Justice Commission. Cynthia will begin on Monday, August 5.

**SCJA Session**

The Minority and Justice Commission (MJC) and the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) were asked to develop a session for the SCJA Spring Conference. Dr. Sarah Veele presented on the Juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact Report.

### **Sentencing Guidelines Commission Meeting**

Save the Date: Friday, September 27, 2013. The MJC and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission are holding a joint meeting on Friday, September 27, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Seattle City Hall, Landes Room. Dr. Katherine Beckett, University of Washington, will share her research on how prior drug convictions affect the length of sentences.

Bonnie Glenn is representing the MJC on the Sentencing Guidelines Commission's Sub-Committee addressing racial impact statements. Carla Lee provided a sample draft of a *Racial/Corrections Impact Review Note*. Ms. Lee modeled this draft after 15 states, taking into account mass incarceration, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic pieces along with a provision including information on schools and motor vehicle legislation. These impact statements are a policy tool to try and assess the unintended consequences of where legislation may impact the criminal justice system. Marc Mauer of the Sentencing Project ([www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)) has indicated that he is willing to advise the MJC, at no cost, with this project.

### **Immigration Benchguide**

In partnership with the Gender and Justice Commission, the Immigration Benchguide has been completed and will be printed and published by the end of July. The project was supported by a State Justice Institute grant.

### **Resignations**

Dr. Sandra Madrid is retiring from the UW and has resigned her position on the Commission. However, after discussion, Dr. Madrid has agreed to be a Member Emeritus and will stay involved when and where she is able.

If you are interested in filling Dr. Madrid's liaison position on the Civil Legal Aid Needs Study Update Committee, please e-mail Judge Yu. (Note: David Keenan was appointed to serve as the MJC's liaison. An email with Mr. Keenan's letter of introduction and appointment to this Committee was sent to the Commission listserv on June 21, 2013.)

### **Miscellaneous**

- **Justice in Washington Report**

The MJC commissioned a study through WSCCR to look at the perceptions of justice. The report is a measurement of how people perceive the courts, not necessarily a measurement of how judicial officers do their jobs. Phase II is on hold for at least a year while funding and staffing is established. It has been suggested that this could be the topic of discussion at the proposed November 2, 2013, extended MJC/Community meeting to be held in the Tri-Cities. This will be a main project for the new hire, Cynthia Delostrinos, to assist with a plan of action and how best to introduce the information to the community. The AOC Diversity Team Staff will be scheduling a conference call with Dr. McCurley, Judge Yu, and Commission members who might be interested in participating.

- **Initiative for Diversity Governing Council (IDGC)**

Judge Mariane Spearman is the MJC liaison for this group. IDGC sponsored a Managing Partner's Summit in May which was well attended. A panel of speakers discussed ways to attract and retain a diverse workforce. One main goal of the Summit was to have attendees agree to promote and implement procedures where employees feel welcome and are able to advance in the agency/firm.

Judge Spearman asked the Commission to entertain the motion to assist with covering some of the Summit costs such as postage or printing. The Commission approved Judge Spearman's request to pay for up to \$1,000 toward costs.

- **Workshop on Achieving Racial Equity in School Discipline.**  
Karen Murray attended a workshop on June 1, on behalf of the Commission. The workshop discussed the use of discipline in schools and how it is a gateway for youth entering the justice system. There will be on-going discussions which Ms. Murray will continue to participate. She will keep the Commission posted. Additionally, she would like to know if there are specific ways or ideas that she should be bringing forward on behalf of the MJC. If so, please feel free to e-mail or call her at [Karen-aca.murray@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Karen-aca.murray@kingcounty.gov) or 206-624-8105, ext. 247.
- **MJC Community Meeting**  
Canceled: October 11, 2013, MJC Meeting  
Scheduled: Saturday, November 2, 2013, MJC Meeting in the Tri-Cities
  - The MJC discussed various ideas on holding a meeting in Eastern Washington that would also include a community meeting.
  - The MJC decided to host a meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2013, in the Tri-Cities. This date piggybacks the Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum that will be held the Friday, November 1, 2013.
  - Commission staff will need assistance from members to plan the meeting and the community portion. Please contact Judge Yu if you are interested.

## STAFF REPORT

### Budget Review

Myra Downing provided a brief budget overview for members. The new biennium begins July 1, 2013.

### Tribal State Court Consortium

The planning team is currently working on a pilot project with the Tulalip Tribe and Snohomish County. The purpose of this project is to work with tribal nations and state courts to identify and propose solutions to inter-jurisdictional issues in the management and disposition of domestic violence and sexual assault cases, Indian Child Welfare cases, and to address juvenile disproportionality.

### Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Grant

The MJC and the GJC cosponsored a grant submittal for a project that would address School Pipeline projects within Washington State. Awards will be announced in the fall.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Collaborations Committee**, Judge Vickie Churchill, Chair

- Jennifer Davis-Sheffield drafted a letter which has been finalized and will be sent to a group of key collaborators. Ms. Davis-Sheffield will be following up with each of the identified parties to identify ways to collaborate or work together.
- Jeff Beaver and Russ Hauge met with a representative from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs where an open and frank discussion about disproportionality, perception, reality, and what data shows in regard to DMC and the school to prison pipeline. Additional discussion is needed along with identifying who else should participate (the Defenders' Association) and how to identify best ways to inform others about this work.
- Commissioner Joyce McCown and Judge Dennis Yule indicated work is continuing on the redesign of the MJC website. Members have been asked to submit an updated bio and photo to AOC Diversity Team staff, Paula Odegaard at [paula.odegaard@courts.wa.gov](mailto:paula.odegaard@courts.wa.gov) no later than July 17, for inclusion on the website. Justice Johnson and Judge Yu have also drafted a *welcome letter* for use on the website. The Commission members recommended to members to suspend the MJC Newsletter for the next year while we redesign the website and explore other ways of outreach such as Facebook .

The final recommendation made was to continue to solicit artwork each year. Members will be included in the solicitation so they can then send to their various *contacts*.

### **Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum has been scheduled for Friday, November 1, at Columbia Basin College. The Committee is fine tuning the schedule and program content. It is expected that 200 students will be attending. Outcome measures are being developed to assess any impact the Forum has on students and whether it influenced their desire to work in the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Joyce McCown relayed that a regional youth forum in spring 2013, will be held in the Spokane area. Gonzaga School of Law, the County Bar Association, and others have agreed to cosponsor the event. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Juvenile Justice Committee**

A letter was sent to those who participated in a stakeholders meeting in December 2012. The letter is asking for follow-up on items discussed during the meeting and to coordinate efforts to report back to the Supreme Court.

Tim Jaasko-Fisher has been contracted with to develop and conduct facilitated discussions on DMC. Dr. Sarah Veele will be joining Mr. Jaasko-Fisher. The concept is to provide the opening to dig deeper into the data released and obtain ideas from the jurisdictions on how to address the disparities identified in the data.

Save the Date: July 9, CLE on Prosecutorial Discretion on Juvenile Court and Beyond. The MJC cosponsored this CLE and provided funds to pay for faculty.

**New Business**

Please remember that the Commission has note cards and posters for use by members and to pass out at community events. Please feel free to contact AOC Diversity Team staff to request supplies.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 9, 2013, at the University of Washington Law School.

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