



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting
Friday, September 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Videoconference

MEETING MINUTES

BJA Members Present:

Chief Justice Debra Stephens
Judge Greg Gonzales, Member Chair
Judge Tam Bui
Judge David Estudillo
Judge Doug Federspiel
Judge Michelle Gehlsen
Judge Rebecca Glasgow
Justice Steven González
Judge Dan Johnson
Judge Mary Logan
Judge David Mann
Judge Bradley Maxa
Judge Rebecca Pennell
Judge Judith Ramseyer
Judge Kevin Ringus
Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Michael Scott
Judge Charles Short

Guests Present:

Jim Bamberger
Esperanza Borboa
Timothy Fitzgerald
Robert Mead
Tristen Worthen

Administrative Office of the Courts

(AOC) Staff Present:

Crissy Anderson
Judith Anderson
Jeanne Englert
Penny Larsen
Dirk Marler
Dory Nicpon
Ramsey Radwan
Caroline Tawes

Call to Order

Judge Gonzales called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Chief Justice Stephens recognized the new BJA members and announced the Public Trust and Confidence presentation was rescheduled to the October BJA meeting.

Court Recovery Task Force Summit Follow Up

The Court Recovery Task Force (CRTF) Summit was held on August 25, 2020 via Zoom. Jeffery Robinson opened the Summit with a video of his work. Small group discussions followed the video, and Jeanne Englert included a compilation of the group discussion responses in the meeting materials.

BJA participants discussed the responses and their reactions to the Summit.

- Judges are sometimes expected to make changes in the system, but there are limits to what judges can do;
- There was reinforcement of the importance of cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders;

- There should be a sharing of ideas, needs, and interests to break down silos;
- Judges can't change the law but can advocate;
- There is a lack of individual and collective awareness of the race equity crisis in the judicial community;
- There is a lack of inclusion and critical voices at the table;
- Any process that advances race equity is a good step;
- There needs to be tangible action;
- The judiciary needs more education from entities such as the Department of Social and Health Services;
- In rewriting rules to adjust to current circumstances there is an opportunity to reconsider assumptions;
- It is important to recognize defensive reactions;
- Awareness of the truth and recognizing communal guilt and shame is important to move forward.

The CRTF committees have been meeting regularly to discuss best practice recommendations to address disparities. There will be regular updates at BJA meetings.

Recognition Awards

Chief Justice Stephens proposed instituting recognition of local heroes and those who have taken on large projects in the court community. There would be significant outreach to the court community for recommendations. There will be a race equity component and lens. More formal criteria will be developed. Suggestions on the name of the award are welcome.

It was moved by Judge Gehlsen and seconded by Justice González to institute a recognition program for the court community and to form a work group to develop criteria. The motion carried unanimously.

Volunteers for the work group were Judge Ramseyer, Judge Gehlsen, and Dawn Marie Rubio. Suggestions about the recognition program may be sent to Jeanne Englert.

BJA Racial Equity Work Group

Judge Gonzales, representatives from the Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA), the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA), and other associations, met to discuss forming a work group on racial equity. Justice Yu suggested the Minority and Justice Commission (MJC) work with courts to develop a summit in the next few months. Rather than create another BJA work group, the MJC will provide oversight as courts take the lead and listen to the community and court customers about their concerns and discover what is and isn't working from the perspective of the community and court customers. Topics from the Court Recovery Summit will be incorporated into this work. There was a discussion on the importance of including community members and court users from the beginning of the process.

Budget and Funding Committee 2021-2023 Biennial Budget Requests

The Budget and Funding Committee (BFC) recommended a change to the budget development process. The BFC recommends, due to current circumstances, postponing the presentation to the Court Funding Committee (CFC) until the next biennium. The BFC will instead make budget priority recommendations to the BJA, and the BJA can assess the priorities and forward the prioritized budget requests to the Supreme Court for consideration.

The budget requests represent about a 6% increase in the General Fund budget that passes through AOC. The BFC will prioritize the requests and bring those priorities to the October BJA meeting.

There was a discussion on possible advocacy efforts for Interpreter Program funding. The Interpreter Funding Task Force does not need to be reconstituted, but it makes sense to talk to those who worked on the funding effort last time to continue their work with the Legislature. AOC staff will assist with these efforts.

June 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Judge Federspiel and seconded by Judge Scott to approve the June 19, 2020, BJA meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Standing Committee and Task Force Reports

Legislative Committee (LC): Judge Ringus thanked AOC staff Dory Nicpon and Sondra Hahn for their work. The LC solicited proposals from all court levels and judicial entities for the 2021 legislative session. Two work groups were formed: 1. To address a response plan for the potential reintroduction of the Clean Slate Act legislation; 2. To address the continuity of operations in single judge courts statewide.

The Single Judge Courts Work Group recommended continuity of operations plans for single judge courts and a court rule amendment to GR 29.

It was moved by Judge Scott and seconded by Judge Johnson to seek legislative sponsorship of the bill draft numbered Z-0916.1/20 as BJA-request legislation and support the adoption of a proposed court rule amendment to GR 29. The motion carried unanimously.

The LC received a proposal requesting that Thurston County Superior Court add a ninth judge.

It was moved by Judge Ramseyer and seconded by Judge Gonzales to support the need for a ninth Thurston County Superior Court judge; to testify in support of any legislation that proposes to adjust the statutorily-authorized number of Thurston County Superior Court judges from eight to nine that is introduced in the 2021–23 biennium; and the BJA will only seek legislative sponsorship of BJA-request legislation to adjust the number of Thurston County Superior Court judges from eight to nine after AOC receives documentation of an approved local budget with funding for the county’s portion of the additional judge’s salary. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion on the upcoming legislative session. It may be a combination of in-person and virtual assemblies. The legislature is seeking to halve the number of proposals reduced, so proposals should be consolidated when possible, or postponed.

Court Security Task Force: The Task Force is waiting to hear about the budget decision package that they submitted. They are working on a court security toolkit that will be available on the Courts web site.

Court Education Funding Task Force: There will be a report at the October BJA meeting.

Court Education Committee (CEC): Decisions are being made about the 2021 spring programs. Most will be online. In 2021, the Annual Conference will be in-person in September. It will be one day shorter than usual.

The CEC Budget Committee is considering other educational opportunities in light of the canceled programs.

Information Sharing

Judge Gehlsen announced that DMCJA support staff Sharon Harvey has accepted another position. If anyone would like to send a message to Sharon Harvey, Judge Gehlsen can forward that message.

Other

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Recap of Motions from the September 18, 2020 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
Institute a recognition program and to form a work group to develop criteria for the court community.	Passed

Motion Summary	Status
Seek legislative sponsorship of the bill draft numbered Z-0916.1/20 as BJA-request legislation and support the adoption of a proposed court rule amendment to GR 29.	Passed
Support the need for a ninth Thurston County Superior Court judge; to testify in support of any legislation that proposes to adjust the statutorily-authorized number of Thurston County Superior Court judges from eight to nine that is introduced in the 2021–23 biennium; and the BJA will only seek legislative sponsorship of BJA-request legislation to adjust the number of Thurston County Superior Court judges from eight to nine after AOC receives documentation of an approved local budget with funding for the county’s portion of the additional judge’s salary.	Passed
Approve the June 19, 2020, BJA meeting minutes.	Passed

Action Items from the September 18, 2020 Meeting

Action Item	Status
The Court Education Funding Task Force will report at the October BJA meeting.	
Suggestions about the recognition program may be sent to Jeanne Englert.	
<p><u>June 19, 2020, BJA Meeting Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post the minutes online. • Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials. 	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p>