



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting
Friday, February 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Videoconference

MEETING MINUTES

BJA Members Present:

Chief Justice Steven González
Judge Greg Gonzales, Member Chair
Judge Tam Bui
Judge David Estudillo
Judge Michelle Gehlsen
Judge Rebecca Glasgow
Judge Dan Johnson
Judge David Kurtz
Judge Mary Logan
Judge David Mann
Judge Bradley Maxa
Terra Nevitt
Judge Rebecca Pennell
Judge Judith Ramseyer
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Dawn Marie Rubio
Kyle Sciuchetti
Judge Michael Scott
Judge Charles Short
Justice Debra Stephens

Guests Present:

Jim Bamberger
Barbara Carr
Timothy Fitzgerald
Chris Gaddis
Patti Kohler
Robert Mead
Judge Kevin Ringus
Tristen Worthen

**Administrative Office of the Courts
(AOC) Staff Present:**

Crissy Anderson
Judith Anderson
Jeanne Englert
Heidi Green
Penny Larsen
Dirk Marler
Ramsey Radwan
Caroline Tawes

Call to Order

Chief Justice González called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Presentation: OCLA Overview

Jim Bamberger provided an overview of the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) and civil legal aid in general. He discussed the programs and services of OCLA, focusing on the COVID-19 civil legal aid program and funding proposals.

Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) Legislative Support Request Letter

The SCJA worked with several justice system partner organizations to create a draft letter to send to legislators regarding the hundreds of bills that will affect the court system this year. Practical implementation of these bills is challenging, and there is

concern about the compounding effect of the bills, especially cost and workload effects. The letter is a draft and open to comments and edits.

Some members would like to shift the message to recognize the work the courts have accomplished and how courts have stayed open during the public health emergency, and focus on partnering in policy goals with the legislature.

The letter will be edited and reviewed by, Chief Justice González, Justice Stephens, Judge Mann, Judge Ramseyer, Judge Gonzales, Dawn Marie Rubio, and Ramsey Radwan.

It was moved by Judge Gonzales and seconded by Chief Justice González to approve sending a revised letter to the Legislature. The motion carried unanimously.

Task Force Reports

Court Recovery Task Force (CRTF): The meeting materials contain a summary of the CRTF's goals and work. The information is also on the CRTF website. Several surveys have been distributed.

Court Security Task Force: The Trial Court Security Improvement budget proposal was withdrawn previously but after the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) met with legislators the budget proposal was reconsidered. A budget proposal of \$780,000 will be resubmitted.

It was moved by Judge Gehlsen and seconded by Judge Robertson to resubmit the Trial Court Security Improvement budget proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Funding Committee: Through February 10, 2021, general fund collections since the November 2020 forecast are \$600 million greater than estimated. There will be another forecast in March 2021. Instructions for the 2022 supplemental budget request will be available at the next BJA meeting. The Committee is following legislation with budget implications. Over \$11 million in AOC CARES funding has been distributed courts and clerk offices statewide

Court Education Committee (CEC): The 2021 Judicial College was held virtually and was very successful. Judge Gonzales recognized the deans of the college and AOC staff. A new Learning Management Systems Request for Proposals is anticipated to be purchased by June, 2021. A revised online bailiff program will be up and running by July 2021. The DMCJA held a webinar on *State v. Gelin* with 200 participants. Forty-

five to 50 administrators have participated in Institute for Court Managers (ICM) training. A CEC summary was included in the meeting materials.

Legislative Committee (LC): Office of Judicial and Legislative Relations Associate Director Dory Nicpon left AOC in December 2020. Judge Ringus thanked Dawn Marie Rubio, AOC staff Sondra Hahn, and contract lobbyist Devon Connor-Green for their work on legislation. Over 1,100 bills and substitute bills have been introduced in the legislature, and approximately 400 will impact the judiciary. Information was included in the meeting materials.

Policy and Planning Committee (PPC): The PPC is focusing on an adequate funding survey that will be sent to presiding judges and administrators. Results will be presented at the June BJA meeting.

Presentation: Innovating Justice Awards

The Innovating Justice Awards were presented to Judge Willie Gregory (presented by Judge Eisenberg) and Vanessa Engquist (presented by Judge Michels).

BJA Member Co-Chair for 2021–23

It was moved by Judge Gonzales and seconded by Judge Logan to approve the BJA Chairs' recommendation for DMCJA member chair Judge Tam Bui. The motion carried unanimously.

Judicial Leadership Summit

The members agreed to hold another Judicial Summit, likely using a virtual format. The Summit is tentatively scheduled for the June BJA meeting, although dates available in September may also be considered. The topic/focus areas for the summit were court operations; court security; engagement with legislative leadership and how the courts and the legislature can improve collaboration; and adequate and consistent court funding throughout the state.

It was moved by Chief Justice González and seconded by Judge Gehlsen to approve these four topic/focus areas for the next Leadership Summit. The motion carried unanimously.

November 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Judge Scott and seconded by Judge Ramseyer to approve the November 20, 2020, BJA meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Information Sharing

The next bar exam will take place virtually on February 22, 2021. The summer bar exam will not be virtual. A question and answer session was held to mitigate concerns about the February exam, and those questions and answers are posted on the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) website.

The WSBA Board of Governors' long-range planning committee will discuss the WSBA structure in the next five to ten years. There is an initiative for the WSBA to increase well-being programs for members.

The notice for the Office of Judicial and Legislative Relations Associate Director position will be posted today and will remain open through the end of March 2021. The position will be advertised locally and nationally.

Supreme Court Clerk Susan Carlson will retire at the end of June 2021. Deputy Clerk Erin Lennon has been selected as the new Clerk, and the Supreme Court will advertise the Deputy Clerk position.

Court of Appeals Division I Court Administrator/Clerk Richard Johnson will retire at the end of March 2021. Lea Ennis, Director of King County Juvenile Court, has been hired as the new Court Administrator/Clerk.

The Supreme Court has approved updates to emergency court operations orders and has re-suspended RAP 18.8b. The updated orders will be distributed statewide.

The District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) will issue a racial support proclamation in April. They are working on their spring program that will be held a couple of hours each day for a week, beginning May 14.

A work group will be convened with members from the SCJA, DMCJA, Washington Defender Association, and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to look at standard orders or best practices around the *Gelinas* case.

Renee Townsley, Court of Appeals Division III Clerk/Administrator, is retiring.

The Court of Appeals Division I will begin next week with judges on the bench wearing masks and all other participants appearing remotely.

King County is moving to remote jury trials.

There is a webinar today on the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System eFiling implementation. The WSBA will hold training for prospective pro tempore judges on February 26, March 5, and March 12. There were 130 participants in a February training.

There will be a roundtable discussion on *State v. Gelin* and CR 3.4 on March 5. There was a webinar on February 9 on *Gelin* that was recorded. Judge Gehlsen has the PowerPoint that was used in the webinar.

Presiding judges were encouraged to join the Friday morning meetings with the Chief Justice.

There is a hearing on HB 1320 today in the House Appropriations Committee.

Other

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Recap of Motions from the February 19, 2021 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
Approve sending a revised letter to the Legislature.	Passed
Resubmit the Trial Court Security Improvement budget proposal.	Passed
Approve the BJA Chairs' recommendation for DMCJA member chair Judge Tam Bui.	Passed
Approve the four topic/focus areas for the next Leadership Summit.	Passed
Approve the November 20, 2020, BJA meeting minutes.	Passed

Action Items from the February 19, 2021 Meeting

Action Item	Status
Instructions for the 2022 supplemental budget request will be available at the next BJA meeting	
The Policy and Planning Committee is focusing on an adequate funding survey that will be sent to presiding judges and administrators. Results will be presented at the June BJA meeting	
<u>November 20, 2020, BJA Meeting Minutes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post the minutes online. • Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials. 	Done Done