



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting
Friday, September 21, 2018 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
AOC SeaTac Office, 18000 International Blvd, Suite 1106, SeaTac

MEETING MINUTES

BJA Members Present:

Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst, Chair
Judge Judy Rae Jasprica, Member Chair
Callie Dietz
Judge Doug Federspiel
Judge Gregory Gonzales
Judge Dan Johnson
Judge David Kurtz
Judge Robert Lawrence-Berrey
Judge Linda Lee (by phone)
Paula Littlewood
Judge Mary Logan
Judge Samuel Meyer
Bill Pickett
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Rebecca Robertson
James Rogers
Judge Laurel Siddoway (by phone)
Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck
Justice Charles Wiggins

Guests Present:

William Hyslop
Sonya Kraski
Margaret Yetter

Public Present:

Page Carter

AOC Staff Present:

Lynne Alfasso
Crissy Anderson
Jeanne Englert
Sharon Harvey
Brady Horenstein
Sonya Kraski (by phone)
Dirk Marler
Ramsey Radwan
Caroline Tawes

Call to Order

Chief Justice Fairhurst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The members were welcomed and introduced themselves.

BJA Orientation

Members received a 2018-2019 BJA Member Guide.

Each court level and staff association are represented on the BJA. The BJA serves an important role in bringing the judicial levels together to share concerns and information. This is a forum to have candid and respectful conversations and to encourage a shared vision of court leadership. The BJA is a time to come together as a group as the judiciary will have more influence as a group rather than individuals.

BJA committees and task forces information was reviewed and is included in the BJA Member Guide. Also included in the Member Guide were the current BJA resolutions and the updated process for reviewing resolutions. Chief Justice Fairhurst highlighted

the four leadership goals. The leadership goal “speaking with one voice” will be changed to “speaking with a unified voice.”

Members were asked to discuss as a group what hopes they have for the BJA, a goal they are interested in and how to implement that goal, the biggest opportunity or challenge for BJA, and how to share priorities and plans with their respective associations and colleagues. The BJA members should see themselves as a group thinking strategically about the future, and sharing challenges and concerns in order to arrive at the best resolution. The BJA is the place to have frank discussions and then to present a unified message.

Members shared:

- It is important that the state start contributing to the justice system. The Legislature needs to work with stakeholders to fund mandates. This is especially critical for smaller courts.
- It is important to come up with a good communication plan for the judicial branch that will gain legitimacy for all levels of court and will be viewed as representative for all court levels. Judges should feel they are heard and represented.
- The judiciary should continue to be meaningfully represented in budget talks. There is also a communication piece; it is possible for all court levels to be heard in financial and other interests.
- The BJA is a great opportunity to work together, continue to collaborate, and turn challenges into opportunities. This message needs to be taken to our associations. There is a need for increased communication.
- Disagreements should be resolved here. This should be a representative body with transparency and advocacy for all.
- There is a need for better education for all court levels, including education at conferences. Education efforts need to be coordinated.
- There should be a sustainable education funding goal. There are a large number of judges approaching retirement and a huge number of new, incoming judges who need a good educational system.
- Education is a special challenge for single-judge courts.
- We need buy-in from representatives and organizations. The BJA should have a concrete goal for all court levels and that goal should be communicated to all judges, so they know the value of the BJA to them.
- There is a different level of court security at different courts, and this affects each of us.
- Members should know everyone personally. That makes sharing and communicating easier.
- This is an opportunity to understand the issues of other judges and to understand issues at other court levels and provide support to colleagues.
- BJA members should know that Washington State has a lot of credibility nationally, and is known for being on the cutting edge of issues. We need to

educate the public; lack of information leads to funding issues. The BJA has an opportunity to be a model for trust and credibility by bringing issues, open discussions, creating a unified voice, and sending a message to help all court levels. That commitment can be taken to the associations to work together and support other court levels.

- The BJA brings collective wisdom and an opportunity to look down the road at bigger issues. The BJA provides a place where the Bar can learn of issues where they can help and be an ally on issues.
- There is a hope the BJA becomes a body that speaks with a unified voice, and a model for what that means, including civil disagreement. The BJA can enhance public trust in the judiciary.
- Even if an issue involves only one level of court, the BJA can provide support on that issue.
- Relationships are very important. There is a need for connection and training, and to provide support to judges, especially those who are not as connected as they want to be. Hopefully judges can get to know one another and those relationships help resolve issues.
- The two task forces are moving forward and provide an opportunity to try something different for funding. These are priorities that affect all court levels. The BJA can provide a unified voice on topics.
- The BJA can develop more public awareness of what courts do and help with court preparedness.
- The DMCMA is committed to court staff education. Hopefully the BJA can support education through all court levels.
- Court staff are the most visible part of the court system. Education is imperative at all court levels.
- BJA should expand its vision and think big. Staff speak highly of the BJA. BJA is a place where we discuss; if an issue isn't discussed, it suggests a gap where the BJA hasn't heard of an issue.
- There is a challenge to be both grounded in day-to-day issues and also looking forward 10 to 20 years. Evolving needs must be met; has the BJA developed a collective vision of what the courts should look like in 20 years?
- The BJA needs to speak with a unified voice as a branch. The Legislature needs to know legislation has BJA backing.
- The BJA should work on speaking with a unified voice. The judicial branch will be stronger if seen as a unified branch.

Members were asked to review the member responsibilities on page 5 of the Member Guide.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Funding Committee (BFC): There will be a Court Funding Committee call in the next few weeks.

Court Education Committee (CEC): Judge Jasprica reported that the CEC judicial and administrative members will meet with each association to discuss how they can do a better job of coordination. They are in the planning stages for the Judicial Education Leadership Institute (JELI) in November that will include two members from each association. The education budget has been the same for the past eight to ten years. In January the Judicial College will have one of the largest registrations ever and the current budget will not cover the costs. An additional \$10,000 has been pledged to the Judicial College.

Legislative Committee (LC): The next meeting will be on October 5 in Olympia. The LC has a role with each committee. Judge Ringus suggested thinking big while the economy is good.

Policy and Planning Committee (PPC): Judge Robertson reported the PPC approved changes to its charter in June, allowing for representatives from each court management association and longer service for the members, which should allow for better planning. Six proposals were received for identification of future strategic initiative(s) and will be reviewed and prioritized at today's meeting. Work will continue on the branch communication plan.

Task Force Update

Written reports for each of the task forces were included in the meeting materials. Englert said the task forces will continue to be very active into the Legislative Session. Surveys and reports from the task forces are available if they are needed. The task forces continue to develop talking points, information sheets, and outreach plans.

Court Education Funding Task Force: This Task Force is looking at education for all court personnel. The two budget packages totaling \$1.4 million will address online training system, increasing existing in-person trainings, identifying critical trainings, and providing financial support to help personnel in small and rural courts to attend trainings. Some new judges and court staff receive no training in their first six months on the job. The Task Force will be making presentations to groups and mobilizing stakeholders for the legislative session.

Interpreter Services Funding Task Force: The Interpreter Services Funding Task Force is reaching out across the state to a broad group of stakeholders. The Task Force just released a survey to community advocates regarding domestic and sexual violence and protection orders, and are meeting with judges, court administrators, attorneys, and interpreters across the state. There will be an update on both task forces and legislative materials at the November BJA meeting.

Legislative Update

The Legislative Committee received three legislative proposals for the upcoming session: 1) from the Office of Public Guardianship to expand the service methods they can offer; 2) from the Gender and Justice Commission to improve the definition of domestic violence; and 3) a request from last year regarding consolidation of traffic fines and the relicensing program. There is a proposal that the judicial branch be a co-requester of the bill. The Committee will also be working on the two task forces funding proposals.

Horenstein will have draft language for the recommended legislative agenda for consideration and approval at the October BJA meeting.

No changes in control of the legislature are expected.

The Legislative Task Force on Public Records held its first meeting. GR 31.1 is seen by some legislators as a model for development of their own public records process. There will be a full discussion at their next meeting. Question may be directed to Horenstein.

Expiring Resolution Process

Included in the meeting materials was a PPC recommendation for expiring resolutions for BJA consideration and approval. The process proposed was:

- one year prior to the resolution's five-year expiration date, the sponsor will be notified of the need to renew, revise, or retire the resolution;
- six months before expiration, a new resolution or request to renew the resolution is sent to the BJA;
- three months before expiration, the new resolution or request is sent to the BJA for discussion.

Judge Ringus suggested discussing the renewed or revised resolution after six months because the BJA does not meet every month.

It was moved by Judge Robertson and seconded by Judge Johnson to approve the Policy and Planning Committee process for expiring resolutions.

There was a friendly amendment proposed by Judge Ringus to change the BJA discussion deadline to six months prior to the expiration of the resolution. The motion carried.

There will be a budget update at the October BJA meeting. There was a presentation on June 8 on the judicial branch budget. Budget meetings since then have focused on those state General Fund budget requests that flow through the AOC. Technology budget requests from the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) are usually not reviewed by the BJA. This year, several information technology requests will seek funding from the state general fund due to previous biennia fund sweeps and declining revenue. There is a recommendation to move four information technology funding requests into the General Fund request that will go to the Legislature. In August the Supreme Court Budget Committee was briefed regarding this proposal.

At the request of the Supreme Court Budget Committee, Radwan separated the budget into 1) pass through or programmatic requests; 2) infrastructure requests; and 3) information technology requests. After review by the Supreme Court Budget Committee, the requests will be discussed by the Court Funding Committee on October 9. The Supreme Court Budget Committee recommendations will go to the Supreme Court for discussion at the October en banc.

Information on the budget process and timeline may be found on the AOC public web site under the Administrative Office of the Courts link at the bottom of the page, Management Services Division, Budget Development and Submittal, 2019–2021 Budget Development and Submittal Information. More information will be posted in October.

2019 BJA Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Judge Ringus and seconded by Judge Logan to approve the 2019 BJA meeting schedule. The motion carried.

June 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Judge Ringus and seconded by Judge Jasprica to approve the June 15, 2018 BJA meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Report

Littlewood discussed the mix of voluntary and mandatory bar associations throughout the United States. Using the PowerPoint presentation copied in the meeting materials, she discussed the roles and history of bar associations. Washington is the only state with three types of licensed legal professionals. The WSBA has 40,000 members, the largest bar association in the Western Region except for California. The WSBA is an agency of the Washington Supreme Court. The WSBA president shared three focus areas in the work they will do in the next year: trust, relationships and service.

Public Trust and Confidence Committee

Judges were in classrooms as part of Constitution Day.

Other

There is BJA financial information under Tab 8 in the meeting materials.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Recap of Motions from the September 21, 2018 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
Approve the Policy and Planning Committee process for expiring resolutions.	Passed
Approve the 2019 BJA Meeting Schedule	Passed
Approve the June 15, 2018 BJA meeting minutes.	Passed

Action Items from the September 21, 2018 Meeting

Action Item	Status
<u>Update Leadership Goals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">change language to "Speak with a unified voice"	Done
<u>June 15, 2018 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