



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting
Friday, May 8, 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 Doug Federspiel
Judge Michelle Gehlsen
Justice Steven González
Judge Dan Johnson
Judge David Kurtz
Judge Robert Lawrence-Berrey
Judge Linda Lee
Judge Mary Logan
Judge David Mann
Judge Bradley Maxa
Judge Sam Meyer
Rajeev Majumdar
Terra Nevitt
Judge Judith Ramseyer
Judge Kevin Ringus
Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Michael Scott
Judge Kitty Ann Van Doorninck

Guests Present:

Jim Bamberger
Esperanza Borboa
Sophia Byrd McSherry
Adam Cornell
Judge Doug Fair
Timothy Fitzgerald
Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Patricia Kohler
Amy Muth
Brooke Powell
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Kyle Sciuchetti

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

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

Call to Order

Chief Justice Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Court Impacts – COVID-19

Chief Justice Stephens reviewed discussions and webinars taking place within the judicial branch about the COVID-19 public health emergency. The charter for the proposed Court Recovery Task Force was included in the meeting materials.

It was moved by Judge Kurtz and seconded by Judge Scott to approve the Court Recovery Task Force Charter. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Justice Stephens asked the BJA members to share how they and their staff are doing during the public health emergency and what concerns and challenges they have.

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL), and Washington Defender Association (WDA),

Adam Cornell and Amy Muth discussed their collaboration on a uniform approach to court operations concerning members of the public who may not have the same access to lawyers as other members of the public. They hope to continue their collaboration after the courts recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic is an opportunity for transformation, with continued collaboration to make everyone safer; for example, technical advances can limit the in-person appearances required in court. There are options for creativity and innovation and use of technology.

Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)

Jim Bamberger, Director of OCLA, presented an overview of OCLA projects and operations. OCLA has submitted a request for emergency Disaster Relief Account funding from the Washington State Office of Financial Management to expand courthouse justice programs and OCLA received \$3 million. He shared information about future projects and funding as detailed in the meeting packet.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Funding Committee (BFC): Due to the pandemic, there may be budget reductions. The BFC is scheduled to meet jointly with the Legislative Committee to discuss possible budget reductions. The governance process will be used to determine what budget requests move forward. Two sets of budget reduction criteria were included in the meeting materials, and there are ongoing discussions on how to handle budget reductions.

Court Education Committee (CEC): Because the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ability to provide mandatory continuing education credits, the CEC proposed temporarily reducing the mandatory education requirements. This requires temporary changes to GR 26 and the General Standards for Continuing Judicial Education.

It was moved by Judge Kurtz and seconded by Judge Logan to recommend that the Supreme Court temporarily relax the GR 26 requirement of 45 credits (6 of which are ethics credits) for judicial officers whose three-year reporting period ends December 31, 2020, to allow for 10 fewer credits (35 credits required). The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Judge Ringus and seconded by Judge Gonzales to ask the Supreme Court to suspend, until December 31, 2020, the provision in the

General Standards for Continuing Judicial Education that limits self-study credits to 15 hours within a three-year period. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff will create a draft of the approved changes and send that draft to Chief Justice Stephens.

Legislative Committee (LC): The LC will have a joint meeting with the BFC. Governor Inslee vetoed an extraordinary number of bills due to the public health emergency. There will likely be a special session of the Legislature, and the LC will meet on May 18 to discuss approaches to the special session.

Policy and Planning Committee (PPC): PPC continues to work on ideas for adequate and consistent funding for the Judicial Branch. Carl McCurley from the Washington State Center for Court Research at AOC attended the last PPC meeting and had some recommendations. The law clerk pool was discussed and the PPC agreed the preferred approach would be to add permanent staff at AOC who would also be available to work on publications and education programming. AOC staff will submit a decision package.

March 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

BJA Task Force Updates

Court Security Task Force: The Task Force has altered its court security funding request due to possible budget cuts from the pandemic. The Task Force will work on plans that require less funding. The grant pool model will be continued, and funding will be sought for courts to perform self-audits.

Court Education Funding Task Force: The Task Force will not submit a budget package. Task Force members are available if there are any questions.

Stress and Burnout

There are resources for court personnel like the Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP) and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The next Friday Forum will deal with the impact on people in the judicial branch, and a JASP counselor will be participating. Questions to help begin discussions on self-care and burnout were included in the meeting materials. Judge González suggested letting courts know there are options for court personnel and asking for other ideas.

Information Sharing

Dawn Marie Rubio outlined some of the things AOC has done to meet the challenges of the public health emergency and to continue to collaborate and be of service to others in the judicial branch. Others discussed their collaboration efforts to support both the public and courts.

Next Meeting

The next BJA meeting will be on June 19, and will probably be a videoconference.

Other

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Recap of Motions from the May 8, 2020 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
Approve the Court Recovery Task Force Charter.	Passed
Ask the Supreme Court to relax temporarily the GR 26 requirement of 45 credits (6 of which are ethics credits) for judicial officers whose three-year reporting period ends December 31, 2020, to allow for 10 fewer credits (35 credits required).	Passed
Ask the Supreme Court to suspend, until December 31, 2020, the provision in the General Standards for Continuing Judicial Education that limits self-study credits to 15 hours within a three-year period.	Passed
Approve the March 20, 2020, BJA meeting minutes.	Passed

Action Items from the May 8, 2020 Meeting

Action Item	Status
<u>March, 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