



**Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)**  
Friday, November 4, 2011 (8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)  
Red Lion - SeaTac, 18800 International Blvd, Seattle WA

**MEETING NOTES**

**Members Present**

Chair, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen	Honorable Ruth Gordon	Ms. Leslie Owens
Vice-Chair, Judge Alicia Nakata	Dr. Margaret Hobart	Mr. Bernie Ryan
Judge Stephen E. Brown	Judge Cynthia Jordan	Judge Ann Schindler
Ms. Barbara Carr	Ms. Judith Lonquist	Honorable Jane Smith
Judge Vickie Churchill	Professor Natasha Martin	Mr. David Ward
Ms. Laura Contreras	Judge Craig Matheson	Judge Chris Wickham
Judge Joan DuBuque	Ms. Emily McClory	Myra Downing, Staff
	Mr. Ron Miles	Pam Dittman, Staff

**Members Absent:** Ms. Jennie Laird

The meeting was called to order by Chief Justice Madsen. The September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting notes were approved with two minor changes.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**New Members and Vice Chair Appointment**

The Nominations and Membership Committee recommended two new members: Judge Stephen E. Brown of Grays Harbor District Court and Ron Miles, Court Administrator, Spokane Superior Court. Judge Alicia Nakata, Chelan District Court is the new Vice Chair.

**Commission Budget**

- The meeting packet included the overall Gender and Justice Commission budget for FY2011-2013.
  - Salaries and benefits cover the Executive Director's and a small portion of the Program Assistant's positions.
  - Goods & Services and Travel cover educational programs sponsored by the Commission, resources developed for the courts, travel for Commission members to meetings and GJCOM-sponsored events.
  - VAWA Grant. The Commission expecting approximately \$125,000 of which \$35,000 is set aside for staff support and the remainder is used for court based programs and activities.

**Brief History of Commissions and Task Force**

- Judith Lonquist, Judge DuBuque, and Judge Schindler were some of the early participants and provided brief overviews of how the Gender and Justice Commission was formed and the various areas of focus. Initial areas of focus were gender inequality in the courts, followed in later years with access to justice, domestic violence, gender gaps, bias, and diversity issues.

## Website Update

- The GJCOM currently has a website through [www.courts.wa.gov](http://www.courts.wa.gov) which is being updated. The first draft was presented during the September 2011 meeting. Follow-up meetings with Commission members are being scheduled to incorporate the suggestions made during the meeting.

**ACTION:** Follow-up meeting with Publications Committee to view latest design draft and content.

## PLANNING SESSION

### Review of survey results

A survey was sent out to Commission members asking for their feedback on how the Commission is doing on their strategic goals and overall mission. Members discussed the survey and the results in these areas:

- What are our strengths? The surveys indicated education programs, trainings, domestic violence project work, such as the work on protection orders, leadership, and member commitment are among a few.
- What areas do we need to improve upon? The surveys indicated continued need for outreach, networking, and partnering with other organizations, and more interaction with the public and media. Additionally, focusing on specific projects with goals and linking with other groups on similar projects.
- What are the suggestions for improvement? Updating website, capitalizing on existing partnerships, disseminating information about the Commission, and using the Commission meetings as planning meetings.

### Outreach

Partnering with others for outreach was discussed.

- Outreach to someone who has used the GJCOM needs to work on a catalyst for change and work on outreach efforts with other entities. Furthermore, there was discussion on how to partner with others such as law enforcement and prosecutors to leverage the grant funds all entities receive and to also promote outreach.
- e forms (i.e., domestic violence survivor) and also with law enforcement.

## Committee Structure Discussion

### General Committee Guidelines

- All Commission members will have a list of committee members with contact information
- Committees will meet regularly.
- Committees will establish their goals based on the projects they initiate or are generated by the Commission and monitor the progress on their activities/
- Most meetings will be conducted via conference call
- Committee members will be the liaison between the work with the Commission and the other groups or organizations on which they serve to promote partnerships and collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts.
- Committees will be flexible so can respond to emerging and emergency issues
- Committees will report regularly during Commission meetings.
- Additionally, members will review the committee structure and Commission operations each year.

### **Legal Equality Committee**

- Purpose: To work on projects promoting legal equality in the system and within the genders.
- Members: Judith Lonquist (Chair), Chief Justice Madsen, Judge Vickie Churchill, Professor Natasha Martin, Ms. Emily McClory, and Mr. Ron Miles
- Proposed Projects include partnering with the Minority & Justice Commission on Women's History Month awareness; Judicial Reception/Scholarship event; Law Caucus; Color of Justice; partnering with King County Bar Association on revisiting/updating Glass Ceiling Reports; interaction with IDGC group.

#### **ACTION:**

Begin working on Judicial Reception/Scholarship event and identify and obtain any other monies for scholarships.

Contact WSBA and discuss where may be able to partner on projects

- Chief Justice Madsen to contact WSBA re: disparity in law firms. More specifically working to continue GJCOM's interest in why women are leaving practice of law and/or why women of color are leaving.

### **Domestic Violence Committee**

- Purpose: To work on issues that involve domestic violence (and sexual assault)
- Members: Judge Wickham (Chair), Judge Vickie Churchill, Judge Joan DuBuque, Judge Alicia Nakata, Ruth Gordon, Dr. Margaret Hobart, Judge Cynthia Jordan, Judge Craig Matheson, Bernie Ryan, David Ward
- **Sub-Committee:** STOP Grant Proposal Review
  - Chief Justice Madsen, Judge Jordan, Judge Matheson, Judge Nakata, Judge Wickham

### **Nominating/Membership Committee**

- Purpose: To assist in filling member vacancies
- Members: Chief Justice Madsen, Judge Alicia Nakata, Barbara Carr, Judge Vickie Churchill, Laura Contreras, Judge Cynthia Jordan, Justice Jane Smith

### **Publications Committee**

- Purpose: To focus on projects and areas that enhance communication and outreach such as annual report, website, and Commission materials.
- Members: Chief Justice Madsen, Ruth Gordon, Dr. Margaret Hobart, Bernie Ryan, Justice Jane Smith, Emily McClory (information only), Ron Miles (information only)

**ACTION:** 2011 Annual Report – Begin identifying what is needed in the report

### **Mission Statement Ad Hoc Committee**

- Purpose: To review and update the Commission's Mission Statement
- Members: Chief Justice Madsen, Ron Miles, Judge Alicia Nakata, Bernie Ryan, Justice Jane Smith

### **Immigration**

- Purpose: Look at issues around gender and immigration
- Members: Leslie Owen (Chair), Barbara Carr, Laura Contreras, Judge Ann Schindler

### **Incarcerated Women and Girls**

- Purpose: Look at issues around incarcerated women and girls
- Members: Judge Churchill (Chair), Barbara Carr, Judge Cynthia Jordan, Bernie Ryan, Justice Jane Smith, David Ward

### **Legislative**

- Purpose: Provide information to GJCOM, track legislation and provide GJCOM's view (not opinion) of the legislation.
- Members: David Ward (Chair), Chief Justice Madsen, Judge Stephen Brown, Judge Vickie Churchill, Ruth Gordon, Ron Miles, Judge Alicia Nakata, Bernie Ryan, Judge Chris Wickham

### **Bench Guides**

- Members: Judge Joan DuBuque, Judge Craig Matheson, Judge Ann Schindler, Dr. Margaret Hobart
- Purpose: Assist with creating and revising bench guides

**ACTION:** A meeting is being scheduled to discuss the creation and design of a sexual assault bench guide.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Miscellaneous**

Other areas of interest members discussed, but no action was taken were areas of, trafficking; sexual assault in the military and native women; and teen violence work