Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting
Friday, June 19, 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 David Kurtz
Judge Mary Logan
Judge David Mann
Judge Bradley Maxa
Judge Sam Meyer
Rajeev Majumdar
Judge Rebecca Pennell
Judge Judith Ramseyer
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Michael Scott
Judge Charles Short

Guests Present:
Esperanza Borboa
Sophia Byrd McSherry
Timothy Fitzgerald
Brooke Powell
Kyle Sciuchetti
Dawn Williams

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff Present:
Crissy Anderson
Judith Anderson
Jeanne Englert
Sharon Harvey
Penny Larsen
Dirk Marler
Dory Nicpon
Ramsey Radwan
Caroline Tawes

DRAFT

Call to Order

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

Court Impacts – COVID-19 Information Sharing

Chief Justice Stephens and Judge Gonzales acknowledged that today is Juneteenth and offered brief remarks. Chief Justice Stephens introduced the new BJA members.

BJA members shared thoughts on the COVID-19 public health emergency and the national and global uprisings against racial injustice. Judge Ramseyer stated a work group has formed to discuss what judges can do in this environment to increase efforts on judicial diversity, education, and awareness of racial injustice. The work group would like to identify tangible goals to eradicate injustices.

Other issues shared by the members included:

- the importance of identifying meaningful and specific actions to take;
- recruitment of minority lawyers to bench;
- appreciation of the letters from the Supreme Court and AOC leadership;
- the importance of getting feedback;
- the importance of listening;
- working to facilitate access to justice and address inequities;
- the importance of judges as leaders;
- a commitment to justice.

Some counties are resuming jury trials in July.

Court Recovery Task Force Update

The Court Recovery Task Force met for the first time this week. Task Force information was included in the meeting materials. BJA members were asked to contact Task Force staff if there are other groups that should be included on the Task Force. A Recovery Summit is tentatively scheduled for August 25.

Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) Update

Judge Ramseyer is the new SCJA president, Judge Estudillo is the president-elect, and Judge VanDoorninck is the past president. The SCJA held a long-range planning and board meeting in early June where the Education Committee discussed virtual education and webinars in place of conference sessions. The webinar format developed for the Friday Forums will be used in the future. In anticipation of the lifting of the eviction moratorium, there will be webinars on basic eviction laws and regulations beginning in July. Upcoming projects include webinar development and a work group to prepare best practices and benchcards for evictions. There will also be new work groups focusing on protection orders and racial justice.

District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) Update

The DMCJA held a Board retreat and meeting in March and a virtual conference the first week of June. Judge Gehlsen is the new DMCJA president. The DMCJA is hiring outside evaluators to watch court proceedings and evaluate those proceedings. DMCJA is committed to increasing diversity in their membership. The DMCJA is considering how to best conduct the work of the courts during the pandemic, including options such as staggered calendars and virtual hearings. DMCJA priorities include racial justice, equity, diversity, adequate court funding, a new case management system, court security, and access to justice. Judge Meyer thanked the Court Security Task Force for their work.

BJA Task Force Updates

Court Security Task Force: The Task Force subcommittee met and discussed funding. A reduced funding request was submitted by the Task Force.

Court Education Funding Task Force: The Task Force met in May, and will continue to explore alternative funding options.

Standing Committee Reports

Court Education Committee (CEC): Judge Gonzales emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with legislators and local officials who make budget decisions. The CEC will continue to offer diversity and access to justice sessions at conferences, and is using virtual platforms to deliver education. The Education staff at AOC have shifted to supporting online education. There were 13 hours of education offered at the DMCJA Spring Program. The District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) canceled their spring program but moved several sessions to online education and moved some programs to 2021. The County Clerks and the Association of Washington Superior Court Managers (AWSCA) have also moved programs online. AOC is working with the 2021 Judicial College Deans to develop an online program for Judicial College faculty as well as content for the Judicial College.

Funds saved from the canceled spring programs have been re-allocated to a scholarship program for all court personnel. Forty-three scholarship applications were received and 31 scholarships were funded.

A Supreme Court Order has been posted that provides for a temporary reduction in mandatory continuing judicial education credits and reporting requirements for 2020.

Ongoing projects include reviewing submissions from vendors for a mobile meeting event application that were submitted in response to a formal Request for Information published by AOC; developing a strategic plan for the development of online education; and re-organizing the education and training site on Inside Courts.

Legislative Committee (LC): On May 18 the LC held a joint meeting with the Budget and Funding Committee (BFC) to plan and strategize for the Special Legislative Session.

Policy and Planning Committee (PPC): A Therapeutic Court Task Force is not warranted at this time. New strategic initiatives will be discussed at the next PPC meeting, and new strategic initiative requests for proposals will be postponed. Recommendations for board diversity will be discussed at the October BJA meeting.

> **It was moved by Judge Scott and seconded by Judge Kurtz to approve an adequate court funding work group, including PPC and BFC and**

Washington State Center for Court Research representatives. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget and Funding Committee (BFC): Funding requests submitted to AOC were included in the meeting materials. Ramsey Radwan discussed the state budget shortfall and possible effects from the shortfall.

2020–21 Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Judge Scott and seconded by Judge Ramseyer to approve the 2020–21 BJA meeting schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

BJA Board and Committee Membership

Two changes were announced in the in BJA Board and Committee membership materials: on the Legislative Committee, Judge Michael Scott replaces Judge van Doorninck and Judge Sam Meyer is joining the PPC for another two years as the DMCJA representative. In addition, Judge Kevin Ringus was nominated by the BJA chairs as the Legislative Committee Chairperson for the next two years.

It was moved by Judge Kurtz and seconded by Judge Gonzales to approve the BJA committee membership with the mentioned changes. The motion carried unanimously.

May 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Judge Kurtz and seconded by Justice González to approve the May 8, 2020, BJA meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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 a videoconference on September 18. The October and November BJA meetings might be videoconferences, although that decision has not been made yet.

Other

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

Recap of Motions from the June 19, 2020 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
Approve an adequate court funding task force.	Passed
Approve the 2020–21 BJA meeting schedule.	Passed
Approve the BJA committee membership.	Passed
Approve the May 8, 2020, BJA meeting minutes.	Passed

Action Items from the June 19, 2020 Meeting

Action Item	Status
May 8, 2020, BJA Meeting Minutes	
• Post the minutes online.	Done
• Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials.	Done