



Board for Judicial Administration

Public Engagement and Education Committee Charter (Formerly known as the Public Trust and Confidence Committee)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I. Title:

Public Engagement and Education Committee (PEEC)

II. Authority:

Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Rule 1

III. Purpose:

The purpose of the PEEC is to empower the public and improve the Washington courts through authentic engagement and education.

IV. Mission:

The Public Engagement and Education Committee (PEEC), a volunteer committee appointed by the Board of Judicial Administration, engages and educates the public to foster a relationship based on accountability, collaboration, and understanding. The Committee's work is informed by acknowledging the historical, institutional, and structural disempowerment of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and other marginalized communities within the Washington courts in the pursuit of access to justice, as discussed in the [Washington State Supreme Court's June 4, 2020 open letter](#).

V. Goals:

Through collaboration with judicial, legal, and community groups and organizations, PEEC will identify issues negatively impacting public confidence in the Washington courts and will:

- Be a resource and partner to judicial, legal, and community groups to support and/or improve the public's confidence in the Washington courts;
- Identify recommendations for reforming the Washington courts and share them with relevant entities;

- Identify and/or create tools and resources to educate and assist Washington court staff at all levels in response to the issues identified;
- Identify and/or create tools and resources to engage with and educate the public in response to the issues identified; and
- Monitor, evaluate, and update the tools and resources created to be responsive to the needs of the community and the gaps in confidence in the Washington courts.

VI. Membership:

The PEEC shall include the following members, including an alternate for each member. However, the committee will only pay any committee-related expenses for one representative.

- One judicial officer from the Superior Court Judges Association
- One District Court judicial officer
- One Municipal Court judicial officer
- One Court of Appeals judicial officer
- One Supreme Court Justice
- One representative from the Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators
- One representative from the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators
- One representative from District and Municipal Court Management Association
- One representative from the Washington State Bar Association
- One representative from the Washington State Association of County Clerks¹
- Up to four public/community representatives from different geographic regions within the state (Eastern, Western and Central Washington)
- Affinity bar association representative and/or Judicial Institute alum representative
- Education-focused staff member from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- State Law Librarian
- TVW representative

Nominaton process: Nominations for organizational-based membership shall be made by that organization. Nominations for public/community representatives may be made by any existing PEEC member, or by the committee as a whole. Members are encouraged to reach out to diverse community organizations, such as x,y,z organizations, in seeking candidates for nomination. Alternates shall be

¹ The PEEC acknowledges that we currently have two members from the Washington State Association of County Clerks. Both members shall continue to serve. However, when the current two-year term of the longer-serving Clerk ends, that position shall not be renewed.

nominated either by the organization/institution, or if for a public/community member, by that member themselves.

Final membership will be approved by the BJA.

Membership will be for a two-year term, renewable once, and an extension to a third two-year term is allowable at the discretion of the Chair. However, the State Law Librarian, the TVW representative and the AOC positions will have no term limits. These term limits become effective on January 1 following adoption of this Charter. In addition, members who have exhausted their terms may elect to become non-voting emeritus members. Emeritus members are welcome at all meetings but must pay any travel costs associated with attendance.

The PEEC strongly encourages each entity below to strive for diversity, including geographical and other factors, in its nominations, including for its alternates. Attendance at a majority of the PEEC meetings during the first 2-year term is necessary to qualify a member for a second two-year term, unless a waiver is granted by the Chair. Non-members may participate in the work of the PEEC, including on its committees.

VII. Chair:

The PEEC Chair will be appointed by the BJA and may be any member of the PEEC, regardless of judicial status. A Chair shall have served a minimum of one year as a member of the PEEC prior to appointment as Chair. A Chair shall serve for a two-year term, which may be renewed for a second two-year term. Terms as Chair may extend a member's total term limit, but six years shall be the maximum total term.

VIII. Meetings & Voting:

The PEEC shall consider accessibility and sustainability in determining the format and venue for its meetings, including the geographic diversity of the membership.

Each member is entitled to one vote. Members present shall be a quorum. Majority vote shall decide all issues. Emeritus members are not entitled to vote. The PEEC may establish internal rules as necessary for operational efficiency.

IX. Support:

AOC shall provide the PEEC project management and administrative support. The BJA shall provide funding support, in an amount to be determined.