


The **Mission** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to provide leadership and develop policy to enhance the judiciary's ability to serve as an equal, independent, and responsible branch of government.

The **Vision** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to be the voice of the Washington State courts.

	<b>Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)</b> <b>Meeting</b> Friday, March 21, 2025 (9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	

**BJA Members Present:**

Judge Alicia Burton, Member Chair  
Judge Tam Bui  
Judge Andrea Beall  
Judge Kristin Ferrera  
Judge John Hart  
Judge Cindy Larsen  
Judge David Mann  
Judge Donald Richter  
Judge Diana Ruff  
Dawn Marie Rubio  
Judge Micheale Scott  
Judge Karl Williams

**Guests Present:**

Jeff Adams  
Linnea Anderson  
Omar Gamez  
Monica Gillum  
Judge Carolyn Jewett-Platts  
Frankie Peters  
Judge Jim Rogers  
Susan Speiker  
Commissioner Karl Triebel

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

Nicole Ack  
Scott Ahlf  
Colby Brewer  
Jeanne Englert  
Heidi Green  
Brittany Gregory  
Lillian Hawkins  
Melissa Hernandez  
Scott Hillstrom  
Yvonne Jones  
Penny Larsen  
Allison Lee Muller  
Stephanie Oyler  
Haily Perkins  
Lauren Pilnick  
Christopher Stanley  
Caroline Tawes  
Lorrie Thompson

**Call to Order**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Judge Burton called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

The meeting participants observed a moment of silence in honor of Lisa Blakeney, Ferry County District Court staff member, who died under tragic circumstances.

**Member Responsibilities**

Judge Burton reviewed the bullet points under Tab 1 in the meeting materials.

## **BJA Task Forces**

### **Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force**

The Task Force was intended to sunset on June 30, 2025 and is requesting an extension. Work has been delayed due to staff transitions and delayed meetings. The Task Force is developing deliverables for the BJA, conference presentations, and bench cards on sentencing alternatives. They are currently working on a full Task Force report. A report was included in the meeting materials.

**It was moved by Judge Beall and seconded by Judge Scott to extend Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force through the end of 2025. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Remote Proceedings Workgroup**

The Workgroup proposed amendments to court rules for Superior Courts have all been adopted except for the amendments to GR 30, which will be sent to the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

There was a budget package proposal for courtroom technology that was cut during the last budget update. Judge Rogers hopes the BJA will consider future recommendations for counties that cannot afford technology. It is important for rural counties to have access to technology as it has been noted that many judges from smaller courts are currently purchasing technology out of pocket for remote proceedings.

There will be a Hybrid Courtroom Technology Roundtable on August 22, 2025; this will be after the Remote Proceedings Work Group sunsets on June 30, 2025.

The Workgroup is working on a final report and a bench card to assist judicial officers during remote proceedings. The Workgroup continues to work with the Chief Justice to retire emergency orders.

Judge Rogers thanked everyone for their support during the process.

A report was included in the meeting materials.

## **BJA Standing Committees**

### **Budget and Funding Committee (BFC)**

The BFC has no updates, but continues to work hard on BJA budget requests. The Senate and House budgets are expected to be released on Monday, March 24, 2025. There will be a Ways and Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee meeting immediately following the Tuesday budget release. Chief Justice Stephens, Dawn Marie Rubio, Christopher Stanley, and Brittany Gregory are prepared to testify. There may be a request for judges to testify. More information will be available next week.

The most recent revenue forecast dropped \$500 million, but is generally flat and not as bad as anticipated.

### **Court Education Committee (CEC)**

The CEC requested that the BJA approve changes to the CEC charter set forth in the meeting materials.

Judge Bui reviewed the background of the motion. Several meeting participants had questions about how voting and non-voting membership was defined, the kind of items the CEC votes on, and the criteria for CEC membership. Meeting participants requested additional time to review and understand the charter amendments.

**It was moved by Judge Ruff and seconded by Judge Beall to table the motion to approve changes to the CEC charter. The motion passed with two abstentions and eight in favor of tabling the charter approval.**

The charter amendments will be discussed again at the May BJA meeting or at a later meeting.

#### **Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Committee report was included in the meeting materials.

Brittany Gregory has engaged in conversations on the public perception of the judicial branch, which has recently received some negative press. Efforts to enhance public opinion include the Bench Bar Press hosting an event on May 30, 2025. All BJA members were encouraged to attend. There has also been an increase in the number of podcasts and *Full Court Press* publications. Members were encouraged to contact Brittany Gregory if they hear any negative comments.

AOC recently hosted Lunch with Lawyers, and the Members of Color Caucus may be invited to attend the May BJA meeting.

Brittany Gregory can answer questions.

#### **Policy and Action Committee (PAC)**

The PAC met in February and discussed the next steps in the Workplace Harassment Project. Ongoing work includes updating their charter and proposing an amendment later this year.

#### **Court Security Committee**

A report was included in the meeting materials. Please contact Kyle Landry if there are questions.

#### **Hope Card Update**

Lauren Pilnik, Program Coordinator at AOC, reviewed the Hope Card Program information included in the meeting materials. She thanked the BJA for the opportunity to present the information.

#### **Pretrial Services**

Yvonne Jones and Colby Brewer, both Senior Court Program Analysts at AOC, presented an update on pretrial services funding and projects. Their report was included in the meeting materials.

Judge Burton thanked them for the presentation.

#### **Minutes Approval**

**It was moved by Judge Ferrera and seconded by Judge Ruff to approve the February 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written. The motion passed with one abstention and nine votes in favor.**

#### **Information Sharing**

**Judge Burton:** Anyone interested in the May 30, 2025, Bench Bar Press event may contact Brittany Gregory or Wendy Ferrell. There will be an email sent about event specifics. Judge Rogers is having conversations with Chief Justice Stephens about the COVID emergency orders. The Court is considering them.

**Judge Ruff:** Thanked the AOC staff who coordinated and organized the Mock Trial in Pierce County

Competition. She recommended volunteering for the event next year. She also thanked the Pierce County judges and staff for opening their courtrooms for the event.

**Scott Ahlf:** Thanked Chief Justice Stephens, Justice Yu, and Judge Diaz for their presentation last Wednesday on immigration enforcement in and around courthouses. The event was well attended. There will be additional meetings, and a one-page information sheet is planned.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

### **Recap of Motions from the March 21, 2025 Meeting**

<b>Motion Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>
Extend Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force through the end of 2025.	passed
Table the motion to approve changes to the CEC charter.	passed
Approve the February 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written.	passed

### **Action Items from the March 21, 2025 Meeting**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
The CEC charter amendments will be discussed again at the May BJA meeting.	
Members of Color Caucus may be invited to attend May BJA meeting.	
<u>February 21, 2025 BJA Meeting Minutes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post the minutes online</li><li>• Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials.</li></ul>	done  done