

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.



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting Friday, May 16, 2025 (9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Meeting Minutes

BJA Members Present:

Chief Justice Debra Stephens, Chair
Judge Alicia Burton, Member Chair
Judge Tam Bui
Judge Andrea Beall
Judge George Fearing
Judge John Hart
Judge Cindy Larsen
Judge David Mann
Terra Nevitt
Judge Donald Richter
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Michael Scott

Guests Present:

Linnea Anderson
Omar Gamez
Judge Angelle Gerl
Lottie Godina
Norrie Gregoire
Senator Bob Hasegawa
Jessica Humphreys
Judge Carolyn Jewett-Platts
Laurie Mott
Frankie Peters
Mary Rathbone
Sara Robbins
Judge Jim Rogers
Susan Speiker
Justice G. Helen Whitener
Daisy Wong

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff Present:

Nicole Ack
Scott Ahlf
Colby Brewer
Jeanne Englert
Heidi Green
Brittany Gregory
Nicole Grey
Patric Haerle
Lillian Hawkins
Melissa Hernandez
Scott Hillstrom
Yvonne Jones
Penny Larsen
Allison Lee Muller
Joslyn Nelson
Stephanie Oyler
Haily Perkins
Laurie Louise Sale
Christopher Stanley
Caroline Tawes
Lorrie Thompson

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Chief Justice Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. This will be the last business meeting of the board year. The Judicial Leadership Summit will be on June 13, 2025.

Chief Justice Stephens welcomed all regular BJA members, and guest Senator Bob Hasegawa introduced himself. Daisy Wong, Legislative Assistant to Senator Manka Dhingra, attended in the Senator's place.

This will also be the last meeting for Judge Burton in her role as co-chair. Judge Burton thanked the BJA members and said it has been a learning experience. Chief Justice Stephens said it has been a pleasure working with Judge Burton.

Member Responsibilities

Judge Burton referred to the bullet points under Tab 1 in the meeting materials and asked BJA members to review them.

Presentation of Current Court Projects

Pre-trial Services

Yvonne Jones reviewed the history of the Pretrial Services Task Force. The AOC Pretrial Project was funded in 2023 and those funds are now being provided to courts that have created a pretrial strategy. Yvonne Jones reviewed pretrial strategies and the scope of the work.

Norrie Gregoire, Walla Walla County Juvenile Justice Center, discussed the benefits and impacts of the pretrial project funding in Walla Walla County.

Juvenile Justice

Judge Burton presented an overview of the juvenile justice system in Washington. The Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) works closely with the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA), who manage the juvenile courts in Washington. Both the SCJA and the WAJCA operate under shared goal of keeping the public safe and helping youth become successful adults. Their goal is to prevent involvement in the offender side of the juvenile courts. Courts try to be as least restrictive as possible, and avoid detention if possible.

Juvenile Courts face budget reduction, ageing facilities, and overcrowding. Two bills passed by the Legislature this year dealt with juveniles: HB 1815 clarified that the crime of prison riot does not apply to fights in juvenile facilities, and HB 1391 expands use of diversion and removes the ability of a parent to decline engagement in diversion.

There are still discussions on expanding juvenile court jurisdiction to beyond age 18, allowing youthfulness to be considered as mitigating factor, juvenile points reform, and overcrowding.

Accessibility in the Courts

Joslyn Nelson provided an update and background for the Disability Justice Task Force (DJTF). Part of DJTF mission is to identify and address system inequities experienced in court by people with disabilities. The DJTF has conducted a statewide study of audits on courts, looking at accessibility, and interviewing ADA coordinators. They have also sent surveys to court professionals and to courts users with disabilities. They are in the final stages of analyzing the data, and hope to have recommendations by September 10, 2025.

The DJTF has a final draft of guidelines for thoughtful and inclusive language for people with disabilities. The Recommendations Subcommittee is also reviewing GR 33 to see if they may make recommendations on access and accommodations.

The DJTF is also drafting best practices on people with autism in courts, and are in the final stages of drafting best practices on disabilities in the courts. There will be a four-part webinar series from May 20 to June 20, 2025, on criminalization of disabilities.

There will be more information on a September 10, 2025 symposium.

Public Engagement and Court Education

Scott Hillstrom presented an overview of the Court Education Committee (CEC). The purpose of the CEC is to improve, promote coordination, and establish education policy. Scott Hillstrom reviewed some CEC goals and described some of the CEC-sponsored education programs.

The CEC supports a wide range of educational programs that reach all areas of the court system. The CEC strives to improve the quality of justice in Washington, and their work impacts the public we serve.

Nicole Ack shared highlights of the Public Engagement and Education Committee (PEEC). The PEEC collaborates with the public, and has an opportunity to educate and engage the public on topical issues. The PEEC is talking to TVW on updating the *Myths and Misperceptions* video, as well as some other videos, about judges and the Judicial Branch. The PEEC also supports the Mock Trial Program, and will collaborate with the Washington State Bar Association on a similar program for lawyers in the classroom.

Facilitated breakout room discussions

Chief Justice Stephens suggested a discussion on the presentations with the entire group rather than breaking into small groups.

- Senator Hasegawa asked about accessing the justice system, especially for interpretation.
- From a court education perspective, it is important to maintain public trust and confidence. The judicial branch collaborates and coordinates with other entities and programs, commissions.
- There are a lot of conversations about how to request interpreters for court proceedings and no funding for court-mandated courses. We hope to partner with the legislature on the increase in prices for interpreters.
- Some courts are having trouble getting interpreters for trials. There are issues with funding and availability as well as recruiting interpreters. How do we improve that situation?
- Access needs to be broadened to include disabilities, especially if people don't disclose a disability
- The legislative process used remote participation; are there similar challenges in interpretation and accessibility engaging in the legislative process?
- This is a system problem throughout government. It is very challenging to find enough certified interpreters because of funding and insufficient resources. There is not an overall strategic plan. What do we need to fix this?
- Are there plans to update the interpreter testing or provide materials to practice the tests? Interpreter testing staff are focusing on assistance on the skills portion of test and getting out better information.

- What have the participants found to be successful in Juvenile Justice?
- There is a recognition that we need to take into account mitigating qualities.
- There are a lot of programs throughout the state, especially evidence-based programs. Individual alternative choice training, individualized programs where probation counselors act as behavior change coaches for young people. There have been good outcomes for programs around state.
- Judge Burton attended a convention addressing 18—24 year olds and what courts are doing with innovating responses with that age group. Those charged with nonviolent offenses can be provided education and substance abuse treatment to get them back on the right track.
- How can we expand data we have on emerging adult population? It might mean a different way of responding to 18—24 year olds. Data collection and data integrity has improved.
- It would make sense to have a third system besides youth and adults. It would be worth looking into despite large undertaking and expense.
- What are the priorities and areas of focus around juvenile justice? Most conversations are about resentencing.
- The judicial branch has sought and received funding for expansion of Therapeutic Courts. We talk with branch partners. There has been movement around examining juvenile justice. We hear from local courts about their capacity to deal with wave of resentencing in juvenile and *Blake* cases.

BJA Task Forces

Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force

Laurie Louise Sale thanked the BJA for extending the Task Force through the end of the year. The Task Force is continuing to work on deliverables and expect to have a preview summary in December 2025 and a final report in January or February 2026.

Remote Proceedings Workgroup

The Workgroup is finalizing a bench card and working on a final report to the BJA, which should be finished in June. The Task Force will have a presentation with Judge Rogers at the Fall Judicial Conference.

Chief Justice Stephens thanked Judge Gerl and Judge Rogers for their extra work to prioritize sunseting the remaining COVID orders. One order affects authorization of remote administration of oaths for attorneys, and one deals with electronic signatures. Please email Chief Justice Stephens with input or other considerations.

BJA Standing Committees

Budget and Funding Committee (BFC)

Christopher Stanley today emailed BJA members with the 2026 Supplemental Budget Schedule. Packages will be due in June 2025, and the governance process will begin in mid-August 2025. Revenue collection in April is expected to drop. Unemployment is still low, but housing prices are weakening and consumer confidence is dropping.

Christopher Stanley reviewed the 2025—27 budget requests, including programs either not funded or funded at a low rate.

Court Education Committee (CEC)

Scott Hillstrom would like the postponed discussion from the March BJA meeting to be moved to the next BJA meeting.

Legislative Committee

Brittany Gregory reviewed the 2025 Agency Request Legislation. A report was included in the meeting materials.

The next Interbranch Advisory Committee meeting will be June 23, 2025, at the Tukwila Justice Center.

Solicitation forms for 2026 proposals have been sent. It is the responsibility of group leadership to distribute that form. There will be limited time and funding next year, so proposals should be limited to technical changes.

Brittany Gregory is leaving AOC at the end of May. She hopes to work with the BJA members in her new role.

Policy and Action Committee (PAC)

Judge Scott reviewed PAC charter. The Charter and the redlined version were included in the meeting packet. The Charter has been updated to conform more closely to the current work of the PAC. They are creating plans and implementing strategies as opposed to recommending strategies to this board. There was also a title change for the coordinator.

It was moved by Judge Larsen and seconded by Judge Mann to approve the PAC charter amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Judge Helson and LaTricia Kinlow have been nominated for co-chairs of the Workplace Task Force.

It was moved by Chief Justice Stephens and seconded by Judge Beall to approve the co-chairs for the Workplace Antiharassment Task Force. The motion passed unanimously

Court Security Committee

No report.

Minutes Approval

Judge Bui corrected page 3 of the minutes to read "The charter amendments will be discussed again at the May BJA meeting or at a later meeting."

It was moved by Judge fearing and seconded by Judge Larsen to approve the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written with the correction. The amended motion passed with one abstention.

Information Sharing

Chief Justice Stephens: The Minority and Justice Commission Symposium will be held at the Temple of Justice on June 11, 2025. BJA members will receive an invitation, and the symposium will also be streamed live. The symposium will focus on indigenous communities.

The Supreme Court is in oral arguments, focusing on administration and working with courts.

Chief Justice Stephens congratulated the WSBA on the rule of law ambassador program.

Terra Nevitt: She thanked the judges who helped lead or participate in Law Day events. This was meant to be a kickoff for a longer and more intensive program around public civic education, supporting lawyers on the responsibility to educate the public about the rule of law. There was a CLE on May 6, 2025, that was recorded and will be available for viewing. If anyone is interested in receiving emails on the long-term efforts to develop more lawyers, they may email the ambassadors at WSB.org and be added to the mailing list.

Sara Robbins: The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) received funding to set up a new appointed counsel program in partnership with the Department of Social and Health Services for Medicaid residents discharged from certain types of longer-term care facilities. The implementation date will probably be January 2026. OCLA lost all *Blake* funding, and they are trying to figure out what that means for contractors.

Susan Speiker: She thanked AOC leadership and pretrial services staff. On May 13, 2025, Okanogan County, her office, and the sheriffs' office, together with members of the community, put together trauma bags that will go out with core specialists and deputies, located in jail and other various sites. The event was very successful and they would like to do it again in the fall.

Yvonne Jones: On June 9—10, 2025, Pretrial Services is hosting a workshop to bring pilot sites together. There is still room to join. At the event there will be discussions on goal setting for next year, what is happening in other courts, and what is working well. Yvonne Jones will send an invitation.

Judge Burton: The Bench Bar Press will hold virtual court media training May 30, 2025, at a variety of locations. She can send an invitation to anyone who is interested. On June 6, 2025, Judge Burton is representing the BJA on an AI technology panel.

Chief Justice Stephens: This will be the last BJA business meeting until September 12, 2025. The Judicial Leadership Summit on June 13, 2025, will be held in the renovated Temple of Justice meeting space. Please contact Chief Justice Stephens if you need parking accommodations.

Melissa Hernandez: She asked everyone to please RSVP for the Judicial Leadership Summit.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Recap of Motions from the May 16, 2025 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
To approve the PAC charter amendments.	passed
To approve the co-chairs for the Workplace Antiharassment Task Force.	passed
To approve the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written with the correction.	passed

Action Items from the May 16, 2025 Meeting

Action Item	Status
<u>March 21, 2025 BJA Meeting Minutes</u> • Post the minutes online • Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials.	done done