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| final_logo_pc [Converted] | **Superior Court Judges’ Association – Equality and Fairness Committee**  **MEETING MINUTES**  **Monday, February 23, 2015,**  **12:05 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** |  |
| **Attendance** | | |
| **Members Present:** Judge Eric Z. Lucas (Chair), Judge Elizabeth Berns, Judge John Chun, Comm. Jonathon Lack, Judge Jean Rietschel, Judge Carol A. Schapira, Judge Ken Schubert  **Members Not Present:** Comm. Jennie Laird, Judge John Ruhl, Judge Lori Smith  **AOC Staff Present:** Cynthia Delostrinos | | |
| **Meeting Minutes** | | |
| **Chair Report**   * Judge Lucas would like this Committee to establish three (3) working groups. Each group should have a designated chair. Since there are nine (9) judges on the E&F Committee, there should be three (3) judges per committee. Judges should let Cynthia know before the next meeting on March 23, 2015, which Committee they would like to be in.   **Committees:**   * ***Legislative***– Judge Lucas volunteered to be the chair   Scope of Work: The legislative committee will review selected pieces of legislation and make recommendations to the SCJA Legislative Committee.   * ***Conference/ Education***   Scope of Work: The education committee will come up with ideas and topics for possible judicial education sessions. Another possible project is to work on a proposal for requiring diversity and inclusion programing as ethics credits, and to develop a series of courses on diversity and inclusion that can build off of one another.   * One session suggestion was on Bryan Stevenson’s book *Just Mercy.* * ***Special Projects***   Scope of Work: The special projects committee will work on looking at the Adult Static Risk Assessment and possible creation of a survey to see how/whether courts are using the tool. Another issue to look into regarding the ASRA is whether it contributes to racial disproportionality. *Also see “Discussion” section below.* This committee could also be the one that works on requiring diversity and inclusion (D&I) as an ethics credit for all judges, and developing and recommending a sequence of workshops on D&I that build off of one another.  **SCJA Legislative Report**   * Judge Lucas participates on the SCJA Legislative Committee and gave a report on bills that might be of interest for this group to watch/pay attention to: * **~~HB 1016 – SCJA Neutral~~** Bill died last week * **HB 1022 –** Providing general power of attorney provisions in bail bond agreements. **SCJA Supports** * **HB 1390 –** Concerning legal financial obligations, Washington **SCJA Supports.** * **HB 1481 –** Concerning the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases. **SCJA Supports** * **HB 1917 –** Concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.*Judge Lucas wants this committee to review the bill and weigh in on whether our committee should take a position.* **SCJA - no position** * The SCJA Legislative Committee meets every Friday afternoon during session and so the best time to make recommendations is by the Thursday afternoon prior to the meeting. Comments should be put in writing and sent to each member of the Committee.   **SCJA Spring Conference**   * In addition to serving on the SCJA E&F Committee, Judge Burns also serves on the SCJA Education Committee. She gave an update on what sessions this group can look forward to at Spring Conference in Stevenson, WA on April 26-28. * Draft Agenda/ Programs that might interest the E&F Committee * **Sunday –** Perceptions of Justice: The Separate Realities of the Justice System * **Monday – AM:** Limited Licensed Legal Technicians and how they are impacting the courts**; Language Access Plans** and how they evaluate whether courts are fulfilling their legal obligations by using LAPs as the roadmap and tool box resource. PM:GR 31.1 and Open Courts; * **Tuesday – Outcomes of Dual Status Youth** * **Wednesday –**Criminal Case processing and best practices; Science boot camp and evidence in decision making. * Cynthia will check with AOC staff about finding a time for our Committee to meet in person at the conference. Preference given to Monday.   **Perceptions of Justice**   * The Minority and Justice Commission seeks partnership of the E&F Committee in its judicial education session at the upcoming SCJA Spring Conference entitled “Perceptions of Justice in Washington State: The Separate Realities of the Justice System as Experienced by Today’s Court Users.” The presentation is based off of a Minority and Justice Commission report that surveyed the perceptions that Washington residents had of the justice system, broken down by race. You can download the full report here: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/subsite/mjc/docs/JusticeInWashingtonReport.pdf> * It was recommended that this committee join in co-sponsorship of the session, and also help put together a sort of checklist of things judges can do to work on improving the perceptions of justice and fairness in the courts. The checklist needs to include options that do not require that the judge be good at organizing community events because not all judges have outgoing personalities. Need to look at ALL types of things judges can do. Some recommendations include writing a column in a local newspaper, sitting on community organization boards, participate in community events, etc. Judge Lucas and Judge Shapira offered to help Cynthia and Greg Taylor (Session Faculty) put together a useful list of things judges can do. Another idea was to collect ideas from other judges.   **Discussion**  **Potential CJE Requirements for Diversity and Inclusion Credits**   * The idea was brought forth that sessions on Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) should be a requirement, similar to ethics credits. A problem in the past has been the issue of continuity. What we would like to see is D&I sessions that build off of each other so that something new is learned every year, and that people’s knowledge base in this area is growing. In the past it has been the same basic presentation on cultural competency that everyone has already gone through. Is it possible to make it a requirement that every conference must have a session on D&I?   **Adult Static Risk Assessment (ASRA) Survey/ Review for Possible Disproportionate Effects**   * Our committee had been tasked with creating a survey to get feedback on the ASRA. Issues have been raised with the ASRA tool and whether it creates racially disproportionate outcomes. * The structure of the feedback we are seeking through the survey will be around:   1) How are judges using it?  2) How do judges feel about it?  3) What part(s) of it are being used?  4) What part(s) of it are not being used?  5) Is there any data that may show that it creates racially disproportionate outcomes? | | |
| **NEXT MEETING:**  **Monday, March 23, 2015 at 12:05pm** | | |