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| final_logo_pc [Converted] | **Superior Court Judges’ Association Equality and Fairness Committee**  **Date and Time: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 @ 12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  **Meeting Via Teleconference**  **Number: 1-877-820-7831 PW: 358515#** |  |
| **Meeting Minutes** | | |
| **Attendees:** Judge Katie Loring,Judge Carol Murphy,Judge Eric Lucas, Judge Jackie Shea-Brown, Judge Ken Schubert | | |
| 1. **Sub-Committee Updates**  * **Legislative** (Judge Lucas)   Judge Lucas has been sending out information about bills that the SCJA Legislative Committee has been reviewing. There should be two charts, one indicates the current bills they are looking at, the other looking at bills the group has already taken a position on. One bill that the group looked closely into last week was 5596, called “valid court order phase out”. What it does is eliminates a judge’s ability to hold a child in detention for a non-criminal ARY, truancy, or run-aways. They had a few bills on discussion for last week, but this one took up most of the time. SCJA is opposed to it. It is a difficult political problem because there is wide support for it from other stakeholders. There was a plan to attack that this week with Judge Kitty VanDoornick, Judge Warning, and Tom Parker doing most of the work to communicate the association’s concerns. Judge Lucas is one of the writers for SCJA leg., wrote a position paper on it giving rational why SCJA was opposed, but the position paper has not yet been approved yet.  There was a question as to who was supporting the bill? No one from from the bench, it is really being pushed hard by certain stakeholders – who have painted a picture that superior court judges are abusing their power. The advocates for the bill focus on Grays Harbor County. They have statistics that Grays Harbor is detaining more kids than most of the state. The critique is that instead of detention, kids should be taken to truancy boards and other alternatives to detention. The judges’ view was that there was a safety concern. While kids shouldn’t be in detention, they should go somewhere where they can get shelter, meal, resources, and be in a place where they are protected. Fund Community Resource Centers for courts instead. Don’t take away their discretion in holding kids when they know they are in danger on the street. Create the court’s capacity to hold them kids in non-detention setting. Actual bill requires as an interim step, but without going back and fixing some of the problems they create by arbitrarily cutting the budget.  Judge Murphy is a member of the Council on Public Legal Education, who is sponsoring a bill that might be moving forward. It is HB 1896, and it requires that one full semester in high school be on civics. Right now there is very little resources and time commitment to civics, almost non-existent. Civics education is an area of importance. The bill does have a fiscal impact. The Council’s kick off event was a summit held in January, and the keynote speaker was Justice Sotomayor. Don’t think SCJA has weighed in, but wanted to provide information to the group.   * **Media & Outreach** (Judge Shea-Brown)   Judge Shea-Brown was working on getting the Committee’s meeting minutes and agendas onto the SCJA website. SCJA has incorporated a new display interface onto its website. Anything other than minutes and agendas that our group would like to include on the website needs to be shared with the larger media and outreach committee, which is chaired by Judge Galvan. The larger committee gives the approval to have material posted. We have not posted anything new lately.  **ACTIONS:** (1) One suggestion was to post the video from the Color of Justice program. Judge Shea-Brown will connect with Judge Whitener about the video to see if it is something we can add to the website. We also need to double check on whether we can post video. (2) We should also update the member lists, as it is out of date. (3) Judge Shea-Brown will start generating posts that this group can weigh in on during our future meetings. We can make it an action item to vote on whether or not to ask for permission to post the content at each meeting.   * **Education** * **UPDATES:**   **Reentry Simulation – RE: Letter to consider simulation for Judicial College**  Judge Keenan was unable to make the meeting, but emailed Cynthia his updates. He has spoken with the reentry simulation faculty and they’re generally receptive to the idea of doing the training at Judicial College. He has reached out to the chairs of the SCJA Ed. Committee (who also work on the Judicial College curriculum) about what a proposal needs to look like, and is getting recommendations about what the best next steps for us to take will be. He will have more to update on next month, and asks that this topic be put on next month’s agenda.   * **Conference Proposals** * **LEP Children & Families (Interpreter Commission) -** Judge Keenan is the liaison on this session. The session was selected to be on the agenda for Fall Conference. Details will be forthcoming, and topic will be tabled until next meeting. * **Understanding Bias – Batson (Minority and Justice) SCJA Spring** Judge Whitener was the liaison on this session, but was unable to attend this meeting. She reached out to the Minority and Justice Commission and they approve of the co-sponsorship. They could use financial assistance from this group. They have to pay travel expenses for 5 non-judges who are going to be part of the training. The session is on Monday, April 9 @ 1pm-3:30pm. Judge Whitener is assisting in the session planning efforts. She is drafting scenarios in which bias may come into play in the courtroom involving different areas of diversity.   **ACTION:** Co-sponsorship funding approved – up to $2500 to support.  **- Procedural Justice –** (Gender and Justice) Cynthia spoke with Gender and Justice staff – They sponsored procedural justice session, had Kevin Burke from Minnesota. Was presenter and he was national known figure in procedural justice movement. He had a great presentation. After that they did a webinar, still on Education website. We could bring material to help w session. Might be good to have Judge Burke back. It has been long enough that people have either not seen it yet and/or forgotten it. Was at a spring conference, not fall conference, so audience would be different. | | |
| 1. **Other Business**  * **SCJA Proposal/ Resolution – Color of Justice**   The proposal was approved by the SCJA Board. Judge Whitener recommends that we put together an email to distribute, inviting judges who are interested in hosting the program to submit a proposal to our committee. Our committee will review the proposals and select the 3 locations for the Color of Justice program.  One factor we should be sensitive to is geographical location – one event needs to be in eastern Washington.  Some questions that could be asked of potential sites:   * Is jurisdiction involved committed to putting on program with court? * Is there buy-in from local schools? * Geographic – where is the court located? * Community Support – what support do you have from the Community? * Court Logistics – Does your court have adequate space? * Bench Buy In – Are the other judges in your court also interested in hosting the event? * Court Administration – Is your court administrator willing to help?   Does it make sense to create an additional subcommittee for this work? To help move along and thrive on its own? So things can be worked on in-between committee meetings?Judge Lucas is expecting Judge Whitener to take lead on this, don’t know if she wants to do an ad hoc subcommittee or make it a permanent subcommittee. Could be done on regular rhythm every year. Application itself isn’t something that requires year after year.  Let’s hold off until we hear from Judge Whitener.   * **Committee material archiving –** Please see link to OneDrive containing SCJA E&F current and archived materials: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AsngiM81_PG_f-sk-2-rjDvBSt8>   **Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 14, 2018** | | |
| Persons with a disability, who require accommodation, should notify Cynthia Delostrinos at 360-705-5327 or [Cynthia.Delostrinos@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Delostrinos@courts.wa.gov) to request or discuss accommodations. While notice 5 days prior to the event is preferred, every effort will be made to provide accommodations, when requested. | | |