

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
State Court Administrator



JOHN MCCORMICK
Assistant Court Administrator

Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

February 14, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Summary prepared by: Almeda Harper

Members Present

Chief Justice Doug Herndon (Chair)
Judge Steven Dobrescu
Judge Kathleen Drakulich
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins
Judge Danielle Johnson - Proxy for
 Judge Stephen Bishop
Chief Judge Lynne Jones
Alicia Lerud
Judge Victor Miller
Judge John Schlegelmilch
Judge Mason Simons
Judge Randall Soderquist
Katherine Stocks
Judge Gloria Sturman
Judge Dawn Throne
Judge Ryan Toone

Guests Present

Justice Elissa Cadish

AOC Staff Present

Mr. Paul Embley
Ms. Stephanie Gouveia
Ms. Almeda Harper
Ms. Zaide Martinez

Members Absent - Excused

Judge Stephen Bishop
Chief Judge Bonnie Bulla
Judge Kelly Giordani
Judge Eileen Herrington
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese

Members Absent - Unexcused

Mr. Steven Grierson
Judge Shelly O'Neill
Associate Chief Justice Ron Parraguire
(Vice-chair)

- I. Call to Order
 - Chief Justice Herndon, as chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
 - Ms. Harper called roll; a quorum was present.
- II. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Summary
 - The meeting summary from November 1, 2024, was unanimously approved.
- III. Reports of Standing Committees
 - Court Administration Committee
 - Ms. Stocks reminded the members to complete the Strategic Planning Survey and provided the link in the meeting chat.
 - Court Improvement Program (CIP)
 - Ms. Martinez highlighted specific items from the report included in the materials:
 - The CIP awarded seven subawards to Community Improvement Councils to address the dependency case backlog and improve preventative services for at-risk children and families.
 - The Committee had been working with Data Savvy to provide tailored court observation and research studies to volunteer sites.
 - CIP will host a hybrid training, *Essentials for Legal Professionals in 2025: Understanding substance Abuse Disorders*, in conjunction with the Fourth Judicial District's Community Improvement Council.
 - CIP was still working on the rules for dependency for the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure. Judge Willcott will reach out to dependency judges to solicit suggestions and feedback.

- CIP Legislative Subcommittee submitted their BDR, with Assemblywoman Marzola acting as the sponsor.
 - The Community Improvement Council Summit will be held on September 17-19, 2025, in Reno, NV.
- Specialty Court Funding Committee
 - Ms. Gouveia provided a brief overview of the report included in the materials.
 - The Specialty Courts Conference, held in October 2024, had the highest attendance to date, with 281 attendees.
 - Vacant membership positions have been filled.
 - A one-time funding surplus of \$400,000 will be distributed to courts through grant opportunities.
 - The Committee approved an increase in funding caps due to inflation.
 - The national conference, *RISE25*, will be held May 28-31, 2025, in Kissimmee, Florida. The AOC will be sending 35 attendees from across the state.
 - According to recent data, recidivism rates have steadily increased from 2019 to 2021.
 - ♦ Chief Justice Herndon asked what the recidivism rates had been prior to 2019.
 - Ms. Gouveia responded that the current numbers are increasing. She did not have data prior to 2019 but offered to request additional data from the drug court case management system.
 - Justice Cadish asked how much of the specialty court funding depended on federal government sources.
 - Ms. Gouveia responded that direct AOC funding had not been affected by executive orders. Some local courts have federal grants that had not yet been impacted, but the future of their funding remains uncertain. She is working with the Bureau of Justice Assistance to receive timely updates.

IV. Report of Regional Council Meetings

- Clark Regional Judicial Council
 - No additional report outside of the meeting summary provided in the materials.
- North Central Regional Judicial Council
 - Judge Simons commented that North Central Region had five new judges who had been invited to attend the last meeting in November and had also participated in the *New Judges Training* in Las Vegas.
- Sierra Regional Judicial Council
 - Judge Schlegelmilch reported that the Council was operating effectively.

V. Other Items/Discussion

- Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool Revalidation
 - Chief Justice Herndon explained that this topic was raised last year and that he intended to reinstate the committee to reassess the metrics for the NPRA tool. He planned to finalize the list of potential members and asked the present members to reach out to their districts for volunteers. Interested parties should send him an email informing him of their interest and if they were active in the original workgroup. He hoped to hold a virtual meeting in March.
 - Chief Judge Higgins noted discussions about developing separate domestic violence and DUI risk assessments.
 - Judge Miller shared that he had spoken with Dr. Austin approximately two years earlier, during which Dr. Austin expressed concerns about the appropriateness of revalidating his own data and offered to recommend a replacement.
 - Ms. Lerud shared that the Second Judicial District's pretrial services manager had obtained an estimate for revalidation costs for Washoe County and offered to provide the information to the Chair.
 - Judge Toone added that the Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's subcommittee had reached out to Harvard Law School, looking to revalidate the tool for Southern Nevada. He offered to provide the information to the Chair.

VI. Future Meetings

- Friday, May 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 8, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.