

Supreme Court of Nevada  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS  
Director and State Court  
Administrator



JOHN MCCORMICK  
Assistant Court Administrator

**Judicial Council of the State of Nevada**

December 1, 2023

2:00 p.m.

*Summary prepared by: Almeda Harper*

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich, Chair  
Associate Chief Justice Elissa Cadish, Vice Chair  
Judge Steven Dobrescu  
Chief Judge Michael Gibbons  
Judge Kelley Giordani  
Judge Eileen Herrington  
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins  
Judge Joanna Kishner  
Alicia Lerud  
Judge Victor Miller  
Judge John Schlegelmilch  
Judge Randall Soderquist  
Judge Gloria Sturman  
Judge Dawn Throne  
Judge Ryan Toone  
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese

**AOC Staff**

Paul Emble  
David Gordon  
Almeda Harper  
Shyle Irigoin  
Chad Johnson  
Zaide Martinez

**Guests**

Alicia Davis  
Jessica Gurley  
Justice Douglas Herndon

**Absent**

Steven Grierson  
Judge Gus Sullivan

**Absent Excused**

Judge Shirle Eiting  
Chief Judge Lynne Jones  
Judge Mike Montero  
Katherine Stocks

I. Call to Order

- Chief Justice Stiglich called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
- Ms. Harper called roll; a quorum was present.

II. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Summary

- The meeting summary from August 18, 2023, was unanimously approved.

III. Reports of Standing Committees

- Court Improvement Program
  - Ms. Martinez reported that the committee established an ad hoc subcommittee of dependency judges and masters/magistrates who will review the guardianship and out-of-home placement practices before the formal dependency process.
  - Extensions were granted for the 2022-2023 Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights subgrants, and two new awards were distributed for the 2023-2024 funding session.
  - The Committee is preparing for round four of the Child and Family Services Review.
  - The Committee's 2024 grant from the Children's Bureau was approved.
- Legislative Committee
  - Mr. McCormick reported that the committee discussed accelerating the District Court judge's COLAs, but some of the members did not recommend accelerating the process.
  - The Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association will be working on developing a bill to fix procedural issues with AB116.

- Mr. McCormick suggested resubmitting the Guardianship bill from the 2023 Session (SB15) without fee changes.
- A legislator has been pushing to change child support driver's license suspensions but there may be a federal barrier. The members also discussed changing DMV fees as they create additional barriers for people trying to reinstate their licenses. The members discussed developing a tracking program to identify who has paid fees.
- Chief Judge Higgins attended a conference by the National Council for State Legislatures where attendees were very much in favor of removing administrative fees. He commented that some fees could be rolled into the general fund, but the \$10 court facility fee and the \$7.50 fee directly benefit limited jurisdiction courts.
  - The committee is aware this would cause hardships for limited jurisdiction courts that heavily rely on the funding and will continue to monitor the topic.
- The members discussed binding over misdemeanors with gross misdemeanors or felonies in the same case.
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District binds them with the felonies and are adjudicated by the district court.
  - Other courts don't have a process for this.
  - Members discussed whether it would be beneficial to create a statutory provision.
- Chief Judge Jones commented there are issues with technical and non-technical parole and probation violations and honorable and dishonorable discharges that need clarification.
- Members discussed including rural townships in the stipend of funds appropriated to the larger counties for 48-hour bail hearings.
- Ms. Lerud commented that post-sentence, no-contact orders are not being processed once received by the state repository. Members will need to contact DPS or the DA to discuss the process.
- Mr. Grierson requested a bill be reserved for additional judges in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
- The questionnaire created by SB418 was distributed to county election officials and posted to the Secretary of the State. Comments or suggestions for the questionnaire can be directed to Mr. McCormick
- Specialty Court Funding Committee
  - Mr. McCormick provided a summary of the Specialty Court report in the absence of Ms. Gouveia, please see the meeting materials for more information.
- Family Subcommittee
  - Ms. Davis reported that the subcommittee was formed in September 2023 to re-evaluate and update a 2019 assessment conducted by the National Council Juvenile and Family Court Judges which highlighted the need for staff support for the family court model specifically in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> judicial districts. Results from a judicial survey circulated in October 2023 outlined a need to review case management, balancing workloads, and virtual proceedings. Ms. Davis will compile a report outlining four or five areas of interest which will be discussed during a strategic planning session scheduled for February 9, 2024.
    - Justice Cadish asked that if the subcommittee focuses on issues specifically involving dependency, they coordinate with the Court Improvement Program.

#### IV. Report of Regional Council Meetings

- North Central Judicial Council
  - Judge Soderquist commended Judge Montero's efforts as chair of the North Central Council. The council had a great discussion on bail schedules.
- Sierra Regional Judicial Council
  - Judge Schlegelmilch commented that the council had a quorum at the last meeting. Please see the materials for more information.
- Washoe Regional Judicial Council
  - Alicia Lerud commented that mental competency is making progress in reducing the waiting time for receiving forensic services at Lakes Crossing. The district court's mental competency docket

will begin hearing misdemeanor cases within the next year to reduce the overall impact on the system.

- Incline Justice Court recently moved to a new facility.
- Reno Municipal Court received several significant grants for its Specialty Courts program.
- Washoe County Behavioral Health Summit will be held on January 9-10, 2024, at the Whitney Peak Hotel. Registration is free, details will be distributed after the meeting. The summit is open to anyone interested.
- Justice Stiglich asked if there are any updates on the conversion of the Las Vegas County or City Jail designated for competency.
  - Ms. Lerud stated the funding was reallocated to increase space in the Clark and Washoe County jails to provide forensic services within those facilities. The State IFC meeting on December 13, 2023, will discuss this topic in greater detail.

#### V. Other Items/Discussion

- AOC Projects
  - Mr. Embley provided the following updates
    - E-filing is moving forward. The AOC will have a stand-alone system running by February 2024. Courts who don't want to wait for integration and would like to have e-filing immediately, please contact Mr. Embley directly.
    - The AOC has narrowed the field of vendor options for jury management and will be demoing systems soon.
    - The RFP process for digital evidence will start in January 2024.
- The Limited Jurisdiction Judges Seminar will be held in Las Vegas on January 9-12, 2024.
- Chief Justice Stiglich commented that the Supreme Court will be discussing the details of the Chief Justice position in the new year. She feels the process of appointing a new chief annually could be updated to better assist the Nevada Courts.

#### VI. Future Meetings

- 2024 TBD

#### VII. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.