

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**

May 12, 2023

2:00 p.m.

*Summary prepared by: Seth Easley*

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich, Chair  
Associate Chief Elissa Cadish, Vice Chair  
Judge Steven Dobrescu  
Judge Shirle Eiting  
Chief Judge Michael Gibbons  
Judge Kelley Giordani  
Steven Grierson  
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins  
Alicia Lerud  
Judge John Schlegelmilch  
Judge Randall Soderquist  
Katherine Stocks  
Judge Gloria Sturman  
Judge Dawn Throne  
Judge Ryan Toone  
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese

**Guests Present**

Justice Douglas Herndon  
Joe Tommasino

**AOC Staff**

Almeda Harper  
David Gordon  
Stephanie Gouveia  
Brandi Jinkerson  
Kristin Worth-Barlow  
Melody Luetkehans  
Paul Embley  
Zaide Martinez  
John McCormick

**Absent**

Judge Victor Miller  
Judge Mike Montero  
Chief Judge Lynne Simons  
Judge Gus Sullivan

**Absent Excused**

Judge Eileen Herrington  
Judge Joanna Kishner

- I. Call to Order
  - Chief Justice Stiglich called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
  - Ms. Harper called roll; a quorum was present.
- II. Public Comment
  - There was no public comment.
- III. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Summary
  - The meeting summary from February 24, 2023, was unanimously approved.
- IV. Business and Action Items
  - JCSN Bylaws, Article XI Revisions
    - Mr. McCormick discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws governing the Court Improvement Program's select committee. He also discussed an alteration made to item four on the memo about specialty program designation and will circulate the changes for review.
    - Justice Herndon moved to approve the bylaw amendments. Chief Judge Wiese seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- V. Standing Committee Reports
  - Court Improvement Program Select Committee
    - Ms. Martinez provided an update on the Committee's recent achievements. [AB148](#) was passed out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

- The committee sponsored eleven registrations for the National Association of Counsel for Children on Inaugural Race and Equity virtual training. They are also extending that sponsorship through June 1<sup>st</sup> and have notified dependency stakeholders.
- The Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) Leadership Team is in the process of identifying priority measures for Nevada’s dependency system.
- The committee hosted its annual dependency mediation training on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Upcoming dates for the Summit:
  - Judicial Roundtable: September 27th (for dependency judges and magistrates).
  - General Summit: September 28th-29th (for all CIP stakeholders).
- Legislative Committee
  - Mr. McCormick provided an overview of the bills the Committee has been tracking.
  - [AB12](#) - Revises the required size of a jury for criminal actions in justice and municipal courts.
    - The bill did not receive a hearing and failed to pass the first deadline.
  - [AB15](#) & [AB16](#) - COLA bills for district judges and supreme court justices.
    - These bills are currently sitting with Ways and Means. It is anticipated that budget bills will be heard and moved by money committees beginning May 29<sup>th</sup>. If these bills are not approved in their original form, they could be added to another bill, possibly the Appropriations Act.
  - [AB17](#) - Revises provisions relating to penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
    - The bill moved out of Senate Judiciary; anticipated to pass.
  - [SB15](#) - Makes various changes related to guardianships.
    - The bill did not meet the first deadline.
  - [SB55](#) - Revises various provisions relating to courts.
    - The bill moved out of Senate Judiciary; anticipated to pass Assembly.
  - [SB58](#) - Revises provisions related to the Judicial Department of the State Government.
    - The bill is currently being amended. This could be added to another bill or the Authorizations Act.
  - [SB62](#) - Revises provisions relating to the Commission on Judicial Discipline.
    - The bill was heard in Assembly Judiciary; anticipated to pass.
  - [SB63](#) - Revises provisions relating to the Judicial Department of State Government.
    - The bill was amended and presented to Assembly Judiciary. The language in section 27 was changed to “reasonable and necessary” to match the associated case law. The effective date for sections eight and 27 has also been changed to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - [SB354](#) - Revises provisions relating to justices of the peace.
    - The Assembly was not as favorable as the Senate when reviewing this bill. It went to Legislative Operations and Elections on the Assembly side. May be re-referred to the Judiciary on the Assembly side.
  - [SB418](#) - Revises provisions relating to candidates to the office of district judge.
    - This bill may not move forward based on Speaker Yeager’s questions and approach to it during the hearing. The bill was amended to have district judge candidates fill out a questionnaire prescribed by the Supreme Court to be filed instead of the full application.
    - Chief Justice Stiglich asked if Speaker Yeager was interested in keeping the full, original application. Mr. McCormick responded that the Speaker seemed to think the bill would not achieve the purpose that the sponsors indicated. The Speaker also questioned the applicability to incumbents.
- Specialty Court Funding Committee
  - Ms. Gouveia provided an update on the committee’s projects.
    - The committee completed Part I of their peer review with Judge Montero, Judge Dobrescu, and Judge Fairman.

- The East Fork Justice Court graduated their last participant for their misdemeanor treatment court and that court is now closed. Potential participants of this court may participate in other jurisdiction's specialty courts. Ms. Gouveia is working on referring potential participants.
  - The committee is working on getting definitions across the state for Drug Court Case Management (DCCM), the case management system, to have a uniform system, and compile statistics for more accurate reporting.
  - The committee has a national conference in June.

#### VI. Report of Regional Council Meetings

- Clark Regional Judicial Council
  - Chief Judge Weise commented that “First Amendment Auditors” were discussed and how they are handled in different jurisdictions. A First Amendment Auditor is a member of the public who appears in courts, often filming, looking for an adverse reaction from court staff.
  - The group discussed some of their pending bills during a legislative update.
  - Fines and fees and dismissed cases were also discussed.
- North Central Judicial Council
  - Judge Soderquist directed the members to refer to the meeting materials for the summary of their last meeting.
  - They will be addressing the First Amendment Auditor issue as there was an incident at one of their outlying justice courts. The incident caused a policy to be created for their courthouses that conflicts with the Supreme Court's Rules.
    - Chief Justice Stiglich suggested adding this issue to the Court Administrator agenda and asked the members to reach out to Ms. Stocks to share their experiences regarding this issue.
- Washoe Regional Judicial Council
  - As a representative was not available for comment, the update was tabled for a future meeting.

#### VII. Future Meetings

- August 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- December 1, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

#### VIII. Other Items/Discussion

- Topics to discuss during the next meeting
  - Judicial Perspectives on Civility

#### IX. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.