

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
Director and State Court
Administrator



JOHN MCCORMICK
Assistant Court Administrator

MEETING SUMMARY

Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

Friday, November 19, 2021

Remote Access via BlueJeans

Summary Prepared by: Almeda Harper

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Justice James Hardesty
Judge Bert Brown
Judge Steven Dobrescu
Chief Judge Scott Freeman
Chief Judge Michael Gibbons
Mr. Steven Grierson
Judge Eileen Herrington
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins
Judge Phillip Leamon
Ms. Alicia Lerud
Judge Mike Montero
Ms. Katherine Stocks
Judge Ryan Toone
Judge Nathan Young

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT:

Justice Elissa Cadish
Justice Douglas Herndon
Mr. Joe Tommasino

AOC STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Shannon Gildea
Ms. Jamie Gradick
Ms. Almeda Harper
Mr. John McCormick
Mr. James Popovich
Ms. Katherine Stocks
Mr. Gianni Troian
Ms. Kim Williams

- I. Call to Order
 - Chief Justice Hardesty, Chair of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.
 - 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 summary of the September 17, 2021 meeting was unanimously approved
- IV. Business and Action Items
 - Standing committee Reorganization Discussion
 - ♦ There will be a public hearing on December 6, 2021 at 4:00 pm to review ADKT 0587.
 - ♦ Chief Justice Hardesty suggested revisiting this topic after the first of the year, pending the approval of the Bylaw changes, to discuss further changes to standing committees.
 - American Rescue Plan Update
 - ♦ Chief Justice Hardesty provided the following updates;

- \$599,285 approved Cares Act money is to be distributed to various courts for a variety of requests including zoom accounts for court rooms, replacement of JAVS systems, guide and file, air filtration system upgrades, etc.
- \$25,617 approved funding for the sixth judicial district.
- \$120,000 approved funding for live streaming software for the eighth judicial district.
- Requests that do not fit within the treasury guidelines for the Cares Act will be shifted to the American Rescue Plan which the Governor's office is treating as emergency requests by the courts. This may allow an additional \$500,000 in funding.
- **All approved funding needs to be in place by December 6, 2021.**
- American Rescue Plan funding can be approved through the Governor's finance office, the Judiciary does not have to go to IFC for approval.
- **Documentation is necessary to allow the release of Cares Act funds. Please contact Mr. Myler during this process and share this information in upcoming regional meetings.**
- Chief Justice Hardesty thanked Todd Myler and Katherine Stocks for coordinating and securing funding. He also thanked Bailey Bortolin, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Governor, for coordinating with the Court and the Governor's staff.
- During the Governor's last cabinet meeting, it was announced there is a plan to extend significant broadband coverage for the entire state under a statewide plan.
- **If funding has been issued from County American Rescue Plan funds, please forward this information to Mr. Mylar for his records.**
- After March 1, 2022 the process will change, some requests will need to be processed through the legislative budget process.
- **Mr. McComick commented Mr. Myler will be sending out sub-grant documentation. These documents need to be completed and sent back as soon as possible in order to release funding. Please direct questions Mr. Mylar or Mr. McCormick.**
- ♦ Chief Judge Hardesty asked each region if they have or are planning on using County American Rescue Plan funds.
 - Chief Judge Higgins commented the county approved funding for a new jury box and upgrade all JAVS systems.
 - Chief Judge Freeman commented the county has awarded \$2.8 million in funding for technology upgrades and an employee to assist with those upgrades. Approval has been given and vendors have been chosen, yet paperwork is still pending.
 - Mr. Grierson commented two court rooms and jury chairs have been funded by County Cares Act funding. No funding has been received from American Rescue Plan.
 - Judge Montero commented the sixth district has plans to add a jury box in one court room and bring it up to ADA compliance. The planning and funding source hasn't been made official.
 - Judge Dobrescu commented Lincoln County District Court has moved into a new courthouse as of November 2, 2021. There are no outstanding requests for funding.
 - Judge Young commented Douglas County put in a request for a small amount and has not received a response.
- National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Strategic Planning Process Update
 - ♦ Mr. McCormick commented focus group results are back and under review.
 - ♦ The next Strategic Planning Steering Group meeting is planned for January 24-25, 2022 to be held during the Winter Summit to capitalize on having a majority of judges in one place.
- Nevada Specialty Court Funding Guidelines and Criteria Revision (*Please see meeting materials for additional information*)
 - ♦ Mr. Popovich presented the changes made in the most recent committee meeting.
 - ♦ Judge Montero made a motion to approve, Judge Dobrescu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Specialty Courts Funding Committee Bylaw Revision (*Please see meeting materials for additional information*)
 - ♦ Mr. Popovich presented the changes made in the most recent committee meeting.
 - ♦ Judge Montero made a motion to approve, Judge Dobrescu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Reports of Standing Committees (*Please see meeting materials for additional information*)

- Court Administration Committee
 - ♦ Mr. McCormick commented district and limited jurisdiction want to clean up statutes and provide clarification on how restitution is handled. The second judicial district has been having issues collecting restitution on parole and probation.
 - ♦ A workgroup has been convened for AB 116, led by Mr. Jessup.
 - ♦ Judge Montero commented the sixth district has had similar issues regarding restitution and would like to be updated on progress.
 - ♦ Judge Young commented he would also like to be updated on restitution corrections.
 - ♦ Mr. McCormick introduced Justin Bell as the AOC's, newly hired, Grants and Contracts Officer based out of Las Vegas. He will be assisting with grants, contracts, and actively seeking and applying for funding opportunities.
- Court Improvement Program
 - ♦ Ms. Gildea commented all 2021 funding have been expended and approval was granted for 2022 funds which should be similar to 2021 in the amount of \$400,000. A special training for the Clark County judges was recently completed, four of the seven dependency judges attended permanency training.
- Judicial Education Committee – Nothing to report
- Language Access Committee
 - ♦ Mr. McCormick commented this program is getting up-to-speed after a long vacancy in the position.
 - ♦ Ms. Williams requested the title of the Language Access Committee to be changed to Certified Court Interpreter Advisory Committee per the JCSN Bylaws. This will alleviate future confusion in identifying the committee.
 - Mr. McCormick stated standing committees and bylaws will be updated once the changes to SCR 8 and 9 are approved.
- Specialty Court Funding Committee – Nothing additional to report
- Technology Committee – Nothing to report
 - ♦ Chief Justice Hardesty informed the Council a letter from Ms. Stocks will be issued shortly, soliciting input on case management and e-filing systems. An opportunity has become available to access a large amount of American Rescue Plan money to provide and improved case management and e-filing systems throughout the state. Currently 85% of courts do not have e-filing. The letter is a request for ideas, suggestions, and thoughts on what will enhance the court systems. The State of Texas currently uses a very successful system that may be adapted to fit Nevada courts.

VI. Reports of Regional Council Meetings

- Clark Regional Judicial Council did not meet within the reporting period.
- North Central Judicial Council did not meet within the reporting period.
- Sierra Regional Council
 - ♦ Judge Young commented it has been difficult to obtain a quorum due to lack of attendance, though a quorum was obtained at the latest meeting.
 - ♦ A number of judges in the region have participated in community service.
 - ♦ Judge Young will be playing Santa Clause again for the foster children associated with the Division of Child and Family Services.
- South Central Regional Council did not meet within the reporting period.

- Washoe Regional Council
 - ♦ Chief Judge Freeman commented Ms. Harper called the names of all Washoe region judges during roll call which may have been a mistake. He stated, the judges that normally show up to the meeting were in attendance. He was under the impression there was a quorum but could have been mistaken. He did not have any additional comments outside of the meeting summary.

VII. Informational Materials

- 2021 JCSN Roster
- ADKT 0587: S.C.R. 8 and S.C.R. 9 Proposed Revisions – Public Hearing

VIII. Other Items/Discussion

- Chief Judge Hardesty made the following comments;
 - ♦ AB 1 in the special session modified the filing date for judicial offices. The filing period for offices ending in 2022 will be the first two weeks in March rather than January. AB 1 sunsets on December 31, 2022 normal filing will resume in January 2024.
 - ♦ ADKT 0588 is a temporary amendment through the campaign finance rules for the upcoming elections only. The amendment will allow officers, judges, or candidates running for office the opportunity to fundraise starting January 15, 2022. If, on March 17, 2022 at 5:00pm, an opponent has not been established, any unspent dollars would be distributed in accordance with the cannons that already apply. The court heard public comment on the proposed amendment on November 18, 2021 and has extended the comment period to November 24, 2021. On November 29, 2021 the court will confer to discuss its actions. Please communicate with your colleagues in your councils about ADKT 0588 in the event they would like to comment.

IX. Future Meetings - TBD

X. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

XI. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.