

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**

November 1, 2024

2:00 p.m.

*Summary prepared by: Almeda Harper*

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Elissa Cadish (Chair)  
Judge Stephen Bishop  
Judge Bonnie Bulla  
Judge Steven Dobrescu  
Judge Kelly Giordani  
Steven Grierson  
Judge Eileen Herrington  
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins  
Chief Judge Lynne Jones  
Alicia Lerud  
Judge Victor Miller  
Judge John Schlegelmilch  
Judge Randall Soderquist  
Katherine Stocks  
Judge Gloria Sturman  
Judge Dawn Throne  
Judge Natalie Tyrrell  
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese

**AOC Staff**

Paul Embley  
Stephanie Gouveia  
Almeda Harper  
Zaide Martinez  
John McCormick  
James Popovich  
Martina Schambra

**Absent**

Judge Kathleen Drakulich  
Judge Shelly O'Neill  
Judge Mason Simons

**Absent Excused**

Associate Chief Justice Stiglich (Vice-Chair)

**Guests**

Justice Douglas Herndon  
Charles Mapp

- I. Call to Order
  - Chief Justice Cadish, as chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
  - Ms. Harper called roll; a quorum was present.
- II. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Summary
  - The meeting summary from August 16, 2024, was unanimously approved.
- III. Reports of Standing Committees
  - Court Administration Committee
    - Ms. Stocks referred members to the Committee report in the materials and expressed appreciation to the courts that volunteered to host site visits for the AOC staff.
  - Court Improvement Program (CIP)
    - Ms. Martinez informed the members that the CIP Program is working on dependency rules, as Nevada is one of the few states that does not currently have them in place.
    - Ms. Martinez also requested that any grant questions be forwarded to her, as the deadline for awarding grants was approaching.
  - Legislative Committee

- Mr. McCormick informed the members that the Committee submitted eight bill draft requests (BDRs) to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) and that he was working with LCB on general edits. The submitted BDRs were pre-filed and should be available on the LCB website by the end of November.
- Specialty Court Funding Committee
  - Ms. Gouveia commented that the Specialty Court Conference was a huge success, and to expect additional details at the next Council meeting.
    - Ms. Martinez commented that she received positive feedback regarding the conference and added that additional dependency training has been offered as a result of the conference.
- Technology Committee
  - Judge Schlegelmilch commented that he recently worked with the AOC's IT staff on installing self-help kiosks and an eFile portal in the new courthouse. He was very pleased with the experience.

#### IV. Report of Regional Council Meetings

- Clark Regional Judicial Council
  - Chief Judge Wiese referred members to the report in the meeting materials for details.
- North Central Regional Judicial Council
  - Judge Soderquist commented that the North Central members discussed the Rules of Virtual Advocacy and inquired whether a meeting to revisit the rules will be scheduled, as outlined in the original order of adoption.
    - Justice Herndon responded that a potential meeting date should be scheduled in the new year.
- Sierra Regional Judicial Council
  - Judge Schlegelmilch referred members to the report in the meeting materials for details.
- Washoe Regional Judicial Council
  - Ms. Lerud notified the members that court reporters have been very difficult to obtain in Washoe County as numbers and per diem rates are low. Also, Spanish speaking interpreters have been scarce.
    - Judge Schlegelmilch suggested allowing court reporters to report remotely whenever possible.
    - Mr. Mapp offered himself as a contact for court reporters, as his court utilizes Kentuckiana Court Reporters.

#### V. Other Items/Discussion

- Future Agenda Items
  - Chief Judge Higgins suggested discussing the revalidation of the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment, as the five-year mark has passed since it was adopted.
- Improving Public Trust and Confidence in the Judicial Branch
  - Chief Justice Cadish received information from the NCSC highlighting the need to improve public trust and confidence in the judiciary, both at the state and national levels. She asked members to communicate with the public and highlight the judiciary's efforts toward transparency, such as welcoming reporters and cameras in the courtroom. Members should also emphasize the ways in which the courts support the public and help individuals succeed in the community, including programs like eviction diversion, Safe Babies Court, and drug court.
  - Ms. Lerud highly recommended a recent NCSC webinar on faith and confidence in jury service, which discussed ways to recruit jurors from a broad range of ethnicities to build confidence in the overall system.
    - Ms. Stocks shared that Paula Hannaford-Agor, Director of the Center for Jury Studies at NCSC, moderated this webinar and will also be facilitating the Jury System Management Workshops hosted by the AOC in late November.
  - Mr. Grierson shared that 60 volunteers from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will participate in the upcoming Formula 1 race opening ceremony by carrying the U.S. flag.

#### VI. Future Meetings

- 2025: TBD

#### VII. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.