

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee**

Meeting Summary-Wednesday, May 11, 2016  
Ratley Training Room  
244 Washington Street, S.W. Suite 300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. and was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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**Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee members present:** Judge Sara L. Doyle; Mr. Will Simmons; Ms. Tracy Johnson; Ms. Cassandra Kirk; Ms. Monica Khant; Mr. Coy Johnson; Judge Sherry Moore (by phone); Judge Gail Tusan (by phone);

**Others Present:** Ms. Karlise Grier, Committee staff person, Contractor for Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts (JCAOC); Mr. Mike Galifianakis, State ADA Coordinator's Office; Ms. Stacey Peace, State ADA Coordinator's Office; Ms. Jana Edmonson-Cooper, Georgia Legal Services Program; Ms. Cynthia Clanton, JCAOC; Ms. Michelle Barclay, JCAOC; Ms. Christine Butcher, JCAOC; Ms. Patricia Buonodono JCAOC; Mr. Thomas Rawlings; Ms. Patricia Buonodono; Mr. Bruce Shaw

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**(1) Welcome and Introductions**

Judge Doyle called the meeting to order and stated that due to Justices Benham and Hunstein both having scheduling conflicts, she was asked to chair this meeting.

**(2) Written Reports**

- **Summary of February 10, 2016, Meeting**
- **Future Meeting Dates**
  - **September 14, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
  - **November 9, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Project and Community Updates**

**(3) ADA Handbook Update**

Mr. Mike Galifianakis distributed copies of a draft ADA Handbook to this committee and thanked the Judicial Council/AOC staff for helping to keep the project and for providing input into the project. Mr. Galifianakis asked the committee for direction on how to proceed with reviewing the handbook by members. The only area that needs to be addressed on a substantive level is what accommodations should be made for individuals with mental health and developmental disability issues. Some outreach to other individuals working in the court system who deal with mental illness and developmental disability issues is still needed. Mr. Galifianakis suggested that a companion guide be developed separately on mental health and developmental disability issues.

The committee determined to review the ADA Handbook and have responses back to Mr. Galifianakis and Ms. Peace by July 2<sup>nd</sup> with the intention of having a completed handbook with the exception of the mental health companion piece by the next Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee on September 14.

Monica Khant made a motion to move forward with developing the mental health companion guide to the ADA Handbook, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **(4) Atlanta Consulates Information and Proposed Training**

Mr. Tom Rawlings briefed the committee on his work for the Mexican Consulate and how the consulate works with Mexican citizens who are involved in court-related matters such as immigration, criminal, family, and juvenile law. Mr. Rawlings proposed three areas of opportunity for collaboration for the AFPTCC:

- Contact consulates and invite them to a meeting with appropriate AOC/AFPTC personnel. Use meeting as a springboard for training opportunities for court personnel.
- Invite consulates to prepare materials on consular protection services for distribution in court clerks' offices or via court websites.
- Create spaces at judicial trainings for consular personnel to share services available.

Judge Kirk noted that the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, Chris Carr, could be consulted to find out what nationalities are surging in population due to rapid business growth and foreign investment as these businesses often interact with the courts.

Judge Doyle recommended more information to be obtained as to where this project would best fit.

#### **(5) Legislative Update**

Ms. Christine Butcher of the JC/AOC went over some pieces of legislation that passed in the 2015 legislative cycle that are relevant to the AFPTCC. HB 691 coming from the Municipal Court Judges Council that deals with removal with cause for municipal court judges. HR 1113 abolishes the existing Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) and HB 808 reestablishes it with a new structure, procedures, and methods of appointment. SB 367 is the Governor's criminal justice reform bill that clarifies procedures for confidentiality of records for first time offenders as well as an offender transition and reentry unit.

#### **(6) VLAN Network Information**

Ms. Monica Khant gave an overview of the grant for the Victim Legal Assistance Network ("VLAN"). The grant is a partnership between Atlanta Legal Aid, AVLJ, Georgia Legal Services, Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network, and Georgia State University. The group received OVC funding to address the problem of the limited reach of civil legal services. Part 1 of the grant was completed in March and is considered the study phase. Part 2 is currently under way and focuses on providing services.

#### **(7) NAWJ Conference**

Judge Doyle went over the progress for the National Association of Women Judges taking place in October of 2017. A hotel has been selected and the educational piece is currently being developed. Currently in the preplanning stages, Judge Doyle expects the work activity to intensify in 6 months as the date approaches.

### **(8) Human Trafficking Summit Grant Proposal**

Ms. Michelle Barclay stated that a national summit on human trafficking and the courts took place in New York last fall and now the summit will be replicated in Georgia by way of a grant from the State Justice Institute and a match from the Georgia Attorney General's Office. The date is October 6, 2016.

### **(9) GLSP CLE on October 20, 2016 – ADA Title 2 Presentation**

Ms. Jana Edmondson-Cooper stated that the Georgia Legal Services Program over the past 3 years has been conducting an annual CLE program on access to justice issues as it pertains to language access. The 2016 event is titled Eliminating Barriers to Justice. This event will focus on language access as well as access for persons with disabilities. Ms. Edmondson-Cooper requested of this Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee to become supporting sponsors. Ms. Edmondson-Cooper invited Mr. Galifianakis and Ms. Peace to present a session on ADA matters and extended an invitation to serve on a judicial roundtable. The sponsorship does not require a financial commitment. AFPTC would simply be asked to help promote the event.

Judge Tusan made a motion to approve the AFPTCC as a supporting sponsor for the GLSP CLE, Mr. Coy Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **(10) AOC Assistance in Locating Grants for Courts**

Ms. Michelle Barclay stated that Ms. Betty Barnard has been used as a contractor to apply for specific grants and is highly recommended. The AOC currently does not offer assistance in applying for grants, but can provide some limited assistance in helping courts to locate grants. Ms. Barclay said she wanted to make members of this committee aware of the limited assistance the AOC can provide and of the more extensive services that Ms. Betty Barnard can provide to courts at the courts' expense. Ms. Barnard is arranging to teach a 'grant seeking' class for court staff in November which will be livestreamed and archived as part of her contract.

### **(11) Day on the Bench Program for Legislators**

Ms. Michelle Barclay stated that this was a program that was formerly done by the AOC but cut for budgetary reasons. Now it is being brought back by the Communications Division at the AOC. The first event will take place in Augusta and be livestreamed. Legislators and other local decision makers will attend the event with purpose of increasing awareness of the court's daily operations for people who haven't been exposed to the everyday functions going on behind the bench.

## **2016 Goals and sub-committees – Organizational Meetings**

### **(12) 2016 Sub-Committees**

#### **1. Council of Accountability Court Judges Collaboration on training and best practices**

Ms. Karlise Grier stated that Justice Benham and Judge Jason Deal met to talk about the overlapping sections of access and fairness issues and the accountability courts. Justice Benham will be raising awareness of the accountability courts in his various talks with relevant bars and Judge Deal and

Ms. Taylor Jones are committed to ensuring that programming is developed which helps people understand how accountability courts are accessed and the how decisions are made to bring people and cases into these courts.

## **2. Municipal Courts – Best Practices Handbook for Court-Related Personnel**

Ms. Karlise Grier updated the committee on behalf of Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson. A meeting was held to discuss a bench book that deals with Ferguson-related issues and Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones will hold a session about Ferguson-related issues in June at the Municipal Court Judges Conference. This presentation will be used as a building block for a bench book and another event on December 15, 2016.

## **3. Court-Based Self-Help Programs in Family Law Matters**

Ms. Karlise Grier updated the committee on behalf of Judge Rodatus. Phone calls have been held with relevant parties with the intent of developing best practices.

**(13) Old Business**

**(14) New Business & Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016.

**(15) Adjourn**