



Judicial Council Minutes

May 18, 2023

Room 230, MN Judicial Center and via Zoom

Fifth District Assistant Chief Judge Darcy Benz attended for Chief Judge Gregory Anderson.

1. Approval of Draft April 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft April 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved the April 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes as submitted.

2. Discussion Item: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Topic – Presenters:

- i. Judge JaPaul Harris, Judge, Second Judicial District**
- ii. Edwin Bell, Director of Racial Justice, Equity & Inclusion, National Center for State Courts**
- iii. Jael McLemore, Strategy and Development Manager, Fourth Judicial District**
- iv. Justice Margaret Chutich, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court**
- v. Judge Mark Kappelhoff, Judge, Fourth Judicial District**
- vi. Dana Bartocci, Human Resources & Development Director**

The Judicial Council spent the morning with a panel discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion, aimed at enabling the Council to set strategic direction toward cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive court system.

The Judicial Council’s discussion began with a detailed presentation that covered the importance of DEI to the courts, historical and recent efforts by the Judicial Branch to support DEI, and a review of national efforts to address DEI issues in courts across the country.

Judicial Branch efforts underway to prioritize DEI through its strategic and operational plan efforts, as well local efforts in the appellate and district courts were reviewed. It was noted that the Minnesota Judicial Branch leads many other states in promoting DEI efforts.

It was agreed that the Judicial Branch core value statements will include DEI in the draft FY24-25 Strategic Plan that the Judicial Council will consider at the June meeting.

3. Discussion Item: oneCourtMN Hearings Initiative (OHI) Quarterly Report

Heather Kendall, Second Judicial District Administrator and OHI Co-Chair, presented the OHI Quarterly Report.

It was noted that the group evaluated the non-criminal hearing chart and concluded that no changes are needed at this time.

Midpoint participant survey data was reviewed. Most participants prefer to attend remote hearings in the future.

- 70% of respondents said that it is not difficult to attend their hearing.
- The most cited difficulty to attend a hearing is taking time off of work (7%).
- Only 3% of responses indicated technology was difficult to use.

4. Decision Item: Proposed Amendments to Judicial Council Policy 605; Minnesota Judicial Branch Emergency Management

It was noted that, in April, the Judicial Council reviewed proposed amendments to Judicial Council Policy 605, aimed at broadening the Policy's purpose to include personal safety, physical security, and emergency preparedness. Judicial Branch efforts under the amended policy will include comprehensive emergency management planning, comprehensive physical security planning, and personal safety training.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed amendments. The motion prevailed.

 | **Council Action**
 | The Judicial Council approved proposed amendments to Judicial Council Policy 605.

5. Discussion Item: Judicial Branch Use of Artificial Intelligence

Jason Betz, Director, Information Technology Division, State Court Administration, provided an overview of artificial intelligence (AI) and recommendations on use by the Branch. It was noted that AI is a generic term meant to represent any technique that enables computers to mimic human intelligence. The risks of the technology were reviewed.

A discussion ensued on the need to provide guidance on the appropriate use of AI and the need to develop policy and best practices. Recommendations will be developed and presented at the July Judicial Council meeting.

It was agreed that, until guidance is established, the use of AI will be blocked on Branch devices.

6. Discussion Item: Judicial Branch Strategic Plan

Katie Schurrer, Manager, Strategic Planning and Projects Office, State Court Administration, reviewed the draft FY24-25 Strategic Plan and Operational Plan.

7. Discussion Items: Treatment Court Initiative (TCI) Reports

Chief Judge Joseph Bueltel, TCI Co-Chair, presented the TCI FY23 Annual Report and the proposed FY24 Workplan. The Workplan will be a decision item at the June Judicial Council Meeting.

8. Discussion Item: FY23 Biennial Budget 3rd Quarter Financial Projection

Dan Ostdiek, Director, Finance Division, State Court Administration, reviewed the FY23 Biennial Budget 3rd Quarter Financial projection.

9. Discussion Item: FY24-25 Biennial Budget

Dan Ostdiek, Director, Finance Division, State Court Administration, reviewed the distribution of funds tentatively appropriated for the FY24-25 Biennial Budget.

10. Discussion Item: Other Business

a. Recognition of Judicial Districts.

The Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts were recognized for achieving their backlog reduction goals.

b. Judicial Council Business

It was noted that Judge Lawson's term as Judicial Council Vice Chair ends in June and that an election will take place at the June meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.