

Indigent Defense Study Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

May 14, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Present/Telephonic: Judge John Napper, Anna Atencio, Jamie Balson, Anne Chapman, Judge Karl Eppich, Chelle Ewald, Ashley Fritz, Nicole Garcia, John Gillenwater, Jaime Hindmarch, Judge Frankie Jones, Judge Danelle Liwski, Robert McWhirter, Megan Page, David Rhodes, Rachel Shackelford, Judge David Thorn, Justin Weinstein-Tull, Cathryn Whalen, Meg Wuebbels Leal

Absent Excused: Greg Parzych

Presenters/Guests: Aditi Goel, Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff: Craig Washburn, Jeff Fine

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks:** Judge John Napper called the May 14, 2026 meeting of the Indigent Defense Study Advisory Committee to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.
- B. Welcome:** Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of the study's significance and the committee's role, emphasizing the importance of their expertise in helping the Arizona Judicial Council and the Arizona Supreme Court understand the study's findings once completed.
- C. Introductions:** Committee members, along with staff and presenters, introduced themselves and briefly described their current professional roles and relevant experience.

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Overview of Sixth Amendment Center Evaluation Methodology and Status Update:** Aditi Goel, Executive Director of the Sixth Amendment Center (6AC), presented to the committee on several key areas: the history of

indigent defense in Arizona, the methodology used for conducting the study, and an update on current study activities. She reported that 6AC had completed court site visits in six counties and is approximately halfway through in their work. She also noted that she and her team had received exceptional cooperation, hospitality, and friendliness during each visit, emphasizing a widespread and genuine commitment to strengthening the system. Discussion also clarified that the scope of the study includes site visits to limited jurisdiction courts.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Good of the Order:** No comments in response.
- B. Call to the Public:** No requests to speak received in response.
- C. Next Meeting:** Judge Napper recommended scheduling the next meeting once the Sixth Amendment Center has substantive updates to share. Robert McWhirter moved, and Nicole Garcia seconded, that the next meeting be set at the Chair's discretion after consulting with the Sixth Amendment Center. The motion passed unanimously. Judge Napper concluded by suggesting that the next meeting will likely be appropriate in late fall or early winter, with periodic progress updates to the Committee provided by email in the meantime.
- D. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m. following a motion by Robert McWhirter and seconded by Meg Wuebbels Leal that passed unanimously.