

**Task Force on Countering Disinformation
State Courts Building, Phoenix
Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2021**

Members attending (remote unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person), Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, Shelly Bacon (in person), Fredric Bellamy, Jessica Fotinos (in person), Dawn Gilpin, Joe Hengemuehler, Patience Huntwork (in person), Krisanne LoGalbo (in person), Scott Ruston, Deborah Schaefer.

Absent: Hon. Todd Lang, David Fuller, Eduard Goodman.

Guests: Public members: Alberto Rodriguez, Lori Ford.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff: Alicia Moffatt (in person)

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The Chair welcomed members and made administrative comments.

- The rule change regarding judges making public comments was approved by the Court in August and will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
- The Arizona Judicial Council approved conforming changes to the codes of conduct for the clerks of superior court and for judicial branch employees. Those changes went into effect via administrative order dated November 10, 2021.
- The Chair displayed the Task Force's Strategic Agenda Award for Promoting Public Trust and Confidence in the Courts and thanked the members for their work leading to the recognition from the Court.
- The Chair thanked the members for their contributions to the draft final report and noted that the final report would be submitted before the end of the year.

2. Approval of minutes. The Chair called for corrections to the October 13, 2021 2021 meeting minutes. No corrections offered.

Motion: A member moved to approve the October 13, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved. CDTF: 2021-19

3. Workgroup Reports. The members provided updates on workgroup progress.

Workgroup 2: Lead, Krisanne LoGalbo. After last edits from the workgroup, the final version of the playbook for courts will be delivered to the AOC to maintain. Krisanne met with court public information officers from Florida who have conducted a successful media roundtable program for many years. The discussion was helpful in planning Arizona's pending media roundtables, anticipated in early 2022. The Court's new public information officer has experience with media roundtables and would be a helpful resource going forward.

Workgroup 5: Lead, Jessica Fotinos. Jessica and Fred updated the members on the status of technology to track and respond to disinformation. Not enough has changed in this area to

make technology available to the courts at a reasonable cost. Advancements have been made, but they generally are not focused on the judiciary or affordable. Fred provided language to include in the final report addressing the state of technology in this area. Judge Astrowsky noted that the Arizona Judges Association has established its Rapid Response Team concept and will continue to develop its role in this area going forward. The workgroup's spreadsheet on media contacts will be delivered to the AOC to maintain.

4. Concluding Report.

The members reviewed the draft concluding report and suggested edits.

- Include short explanations of the reasons why the Task Force made each recommendation. This will make the report easier to digest for those unfamiliar with the original report.
- Because the original 27 recommendations were in nine broader categories, it would be helpful to label them accordingly and to include a table in the appendix of the nine categories and the individual recommendations that are included in each.
- Review for consistent usage of “news” and “media.” The preferred term for formats that aren't “new media” is “legacy media.”
- Regarding the rule change allowing judges to comment on pending cases to correct misinformation or disinformation, be specific about what changed in the rule, note that the change is a significant departure from the historical approach to commenting during pending or impending cases, and use phrasing from the new rule to ensure accuracy.
- Add language to the report that recognizes disinformation will continue beyond the Task Force's term. Courts and the AOC should remain vigilant about the ongoing need for review and action in this field going forward.

Motion: A member moved to make the edits discussed during the meeting and to authorize the Chair to take the steps necessary to finalize the concluding report and related materials. The motion was seconded and approved. CDTF: 2021-20

5. Call to the public. The Chair made a call to the public. Lori Ford addressed the Task Force.

6. Approval to complete report and finalize minutes. The motion and approval to complete the concluding report took place during Item 4.

Motion: A member moved to authorize the Chair to complete and approve final minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. CDTF: 2021-21

7. Roadmap. The November 17, 2021 meeting was the final meeting of the Task Force. The Chair will coordinate finalizing and posting the November meeting minutes and the completion and distribution of the Task Force's concluding report and materials.

8. Good of the Order and adjournment. The Chair thanked the members, the public, and the Task Force's contributors for their work over the last two years. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.