



ACAJ – Judicial and Attorney Engagement Workgroup Notes

May 1, 2018 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

The workgroup meeting commenced at 12:15 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

In Person: Judge Joseph Kreamer (Chair), Judge Maria Elena Cruz, Cheryl Kulas, Lara Slifko, Kevin Ruegg

Telephonic: Judge Tom Berning, Dan Christensen, Pat Gerrich, Kevin Groman, John Phelps

AOC Staff: Kathy Sekardi

The workgroup continued to discuss focusing their efforts on three areas: 1) engaging public lawyers, 2) engaging law firms, and 3) engaging judges.

1. Engaging Public Lawyers

- The workgroup previously agreed that a menu should be developed for each agency rather than a one-size-fits-all policy, starting with the Attorney General's Office (AGO). The goal is to adopt a policy for each of the agencies (AGO, U.S. Attorney's Office, Public Defenders), and develop a can and can't do list.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Judge Kreamer will arrange to meet with the U.S. Attorney.
- **ACTION ITEM:** John Phelps will arrange a meeting with Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery and Attorney General Mark Brnovich.

2. Engaging Law Firms

- The Chief Justice's letter was sent out to the targeted law firms. Cheryl Kulas described the steps taken to survey law firms asking about their *pro bono* policies and areas of interest and the results. The workgroup members agreed to provide a third survey and Kevin Ruegg volunteered to develop the next email and survey.
- **ACTION:** Kevin Ruegg to develop the email narrative and survey questions.

3. Judicial Engagement

- Judge Cruz offered an idea for a community outreach program for judges. How to pursue? Would the program be outside of the judicial conference or to place on the radar for next year's judicial conference? The workgroup agrees it should be ready for next year's judicial conference.
- Kevin suggested perhaps tying this program into the conversation with the law firms. Inquire as to how the attorneys see judges engaging in pro bono work. "Lunch with a judge" was suggested.
- Kevin suggested re-purposing the Supreme Court's Question and Response Handbook to create podcasts on court process information.
- Members again discussed pro bono opportunities for judges answering questions online on AZLawHelp.org. Kevin Ruegg volunteered to create a list of generic

process questions for Judge Kreamer to take to the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee for an informal opinion.

ACTION ITEM: Post-meeting - Kathy Sekardi approached Heather Murphy, PIO for AOC, to start discussions regarding development of podcasts.

ACTION ITEM: Kevin R. to provide questions for Judge Kreamer to take to Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be scheduled in September before the next ACAJ meeting on September 19, 2018.

ACTION ITEM: Judge Kreamer to provide dates in first week of September for next meeting.