

**Task Force on Countering Disinformation
State Courts Building, Phoenix
Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2020**

Members attending (telephonic unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person), MJ Abril, Susan Dzbanko, Jessica Fotinos, Hon. David Fuller, Dawn Gilpin, Eduard Goodman, Joe Hengemuehler, Patience Huntwork, Krisanne LoGalbo, Scott Ruston, Deborah Schaefer, Hon. Donald Watts

Absent: Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, David Bodney, Fredric Bellamy, Pete Dunn, Hon. Todd Lang

Guests: Elizabeth Parker, Lori Ford, Beth Springs

AOC staff: Alicia Moffatt (in person)

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

The Chair welcomed guests and members, thanked them for their participation over the last year, and made administrative comments.

2. Approval of minutes. The Chair called for corrections to the August 19, 2020 meeting minutes; none were offered.

Motion: A member moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. CDTF: 23.

3. Discussions. The Chair took item #4 out of order, ahead of item #3. After item #4, the Chair guided the Task Force members through the draft documents that were presented for the day's meeting, highlighting edits to prior versions or based on prior Task Force discussions and discussing recommendations from stakeholders who received and commented on the draft that followed the August meeting. Task Force members suggested edits, which were made on screen or noted by the Chair. By consensus, the Task Force members agreed to add a recommendation that the Task Force be extended another year, through December 2021.

In the interest of time, the Chair made a call to the public during the discussions agenda item before returning to discussions.

Motion: A member moved to approve the final report and recommendations, subject to the modifications made during the meeting, and with authority for the editing group to work with the Chair to make final edits based on the guidance and direction given by the Task Force during the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. CDTF: 24.

4. Research memo and attachments on rating website. The Chair took this item out of order, before discussing the final draft report. Patience Huntwork updated the Task Force on her research into a national judicial rating website. The review covered information from Arizona, Maine, California, Washington, and other states. Based on exact language used across

judicial officers and states, it appears that this rating website is a disinformation campaign against courts. The research revealed instances of hate speech, mostly against women judges, and evidence of minority judges as special targets. The research indicates further research and study is warranted. Task Force members discussed, and consensus was to incorporate the memo and background into the final report and recommendations. The extensive supplemental research attachments will be posted on the Task Force webpage and the final report and recommendations will point to the attachments there.

5. Call to the public. In the interest of time, the Chair suspended the Task Force's discussions agenda item to make a call to the public. Lori Ford addressed the Task Force. Beth Springs opted to yield her time to Lori Ford, who provided additional comments. The Task Force then returned to the discussions agenda item.

6. Roadmap. The Chair advised the Task Force that the final report and recommendations will be presented to the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) on October 22, 2020. The Chair will report back to the Task Force after that meeting. The Chair advised the Task Force members that the AJC could ask the Task Force to meet again for further edits or content and to re-present for the AJC's December 2020 meeting. The Task Force agreed to set a tentative November meeting date.

7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Arizona State Courts Building, Conference Room 230
1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
Link for remote audio/video attendance to be provided