

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

Members attending (telephonic unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person), Shelly Bacon, Fredric Bellamy, Jessica Fotinos, Hon. David Fuller (in person), Eduard Goodman, Krisanne LoGalbo, Scott Ruston, Deborah Schaefer

Absent: Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, Dawn Gilpin, Joe Hengemuehler, Patience Huntwork

Guests: Elizabeth Parker, Laura Ritenour, Ray English, public members Lori Ford, Malinda Sherwyn

AOC staff: Alicia Moffatt

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The Chair welcomed members and made administrative comments.

2. Approval of minutes. The Chair called for corrections to the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes, noting a corrected typo at the bottom of page two. No additional corrections were offered.

Motion: A member moved to approve the January 21 minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. CDTF: 2021-2

The Chair took a portion of Item 4 out of order for the introduction of guests. Laura Ritenour, staff to the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Minorities (COM), and Commission member Ray English, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law (ASU) Assistant Dean, Office of Career and Employment Services, addressed the task force.

COM has a pipeline program where eight or nine members work on programs to encourage students to consider careers in law, including roles as judicial officers. COM is looking to update its education and speakers bureau, making sure that content and speakers reflect diversity and inclusion. The project includes training judges how to deliver material, being mindful of diversity and inclusion issues.

At the same time COM was planning their updates, they heard of the task force's work in updating the Our Courts Arizona program, making it possible to work together in updating these shared resources. COM members are interested in working with the task force to review material and give input.

Members agreed that merging these education and outreach initiatives will improve the overall product, including checking for consistency in messages from courts. Dr. English noted that ASU has resources that could help with developing formats and content that reflect current educational design and messaging.

Task force members welcomed COM members to follow up with individual workgroups and to attend task force meetings any time. The Chair will send Laura information on the task force workgroups.

3. Liaison updates.

Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS)

<http://acssaz.org/>:

The Chair, as task force liaison, updated the task force on the latest meeting:

- Teachers would like the task force's educational materials to include instruction on tribal courts. There is statewide demand on that optic but few resources.
- Could use judges for Project Citizen. No experience required, online only, and don't have to be actual judges. Kids prepare persuasive speeches. Register by March 1. Program info: <https://lawforkids.org/project-citizen> Judge Registration page: <https://lawforkids.org/portfolio-judge>
- The Arizona Bar Foundation (AzBF) would like judicial officers to participate in Law Day and Constitution Day programs. Registration is through the AzBF website:

Task force input for the liaison's follow-up:

- Judge Fuller asked to relay his availability to provide professional development instruction on Saturdays. He can work with ACSS for materials and format that qualify for professional development.
- A member asked if the public can attend the ACSS monthly board meetings. The Chair will follow up.

Krisanne LoGalbo noted that Pima County Superior Court is planning a Law Day virtual event for May. Attendance is limited to 300, but one class attending only counts as one virtual attendee. The audience is currently Tucson schools and those in the surrounding area, but Krisanne and the Chair will discuss whether the AOC can coordinate to expand into central and northern Arizona or to prepare a similar event.

Civic Education Community Engagement Program (CE2)

<https://www.azed.gov/civicengagement>:

Task force liaison Judge Fuller noted that he has not received meeting information and could use a contact for follow up. The Chair will make contact.

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

Workgroup 1: Lead, Joe Hengemuehler was not able to attend the task force meeting. He remains on the task force and workgroup, but member Debi Schaefer will take the lead role for this workgroup with support from Alicia Moffatt. The Chair provided the update.

Cathleen Cole from AZCourtHelp.org has baseline information for courts around the state regarding their websites. She will share that information with the workgroup who will add social media and other fields to fill out the internet communication abilities for the courts. With

this information the workgroup will develop a survey for Arizona's courts to determine current abilities and potential for improved outreach. Once developed, the AOC will send the survey.

The next time the supreme court amends the administrative order covering county presiding judges' authority, the workgroup will have recommended language to add, stating that the presiding judge may designate a public information officer for each court, making a point of contact available to the public. The workgroup will consider the various levels of courts, elected clerks, probation heads, and other considerations involved in making those designations and will bring suggested language to the task force for consideration.

Workgroup 2: Lead, Krisanne LoGalbo. The workgroup is working on media outreach, an employee guide, disinformation playbook, media literacy, and hosting seminars with the media to update and inform those who report on courts. Krisanne is working with the Arizona Broadcasters Association to develop content and logistics that are in the highest demand. Members are compiling local media contacts for this outreach. Pima County's court training department is interested in hosting a seminar. Judge Astrowksy is developing ideas for the employee guide. Jessica noted that an electronic signature bill is making its way through the legislature. The public may be interested in the veracity of signatures and potential for fraud. This is an item to address in the employee guide and disinformation playbook.

Workgroup 3: Lead, Chair Aaron Nash. The workgroup is reviewing branding guides from various entities to create a branding guide for Arizona courts. Krisanne will share the North Carolina courts' branding guide.

Workgroup 4: Lead, Judge Fuller. The workgroup wants its educational outreach to include court participation in Law Day and Constitution Day programs with area schools. COVID-19 has revealed opportunities to use virtual platforms to reach multiple communities at once and there are state and national topics and trends that educators and outreach volunteers can communicate.

Yavapai County Presiding Judge John Napper is involved in his community and is working on educational materials that schools and the workgroup can work with.

The workgroup intends to build an Our Courts Arizona (OCA) resource library of talking points, information on what has proven interesting and effective in classrooms, and ideas for adapting materials based on the age of the audience. Volunteers have noted that when a presentation is scheduled, a best practice is to check in with the host before the event to ensure internet connection, audio and video work as expected. This saves time and frustration for when the event is ready to begin.

The redeveloped OCA will need a way to coordinate, track, and report on presentations given, preferably automated. Judge Fuller will check with Phoenix Municipal Court's process and the Chair will check with the Maricopa County Superior Court.

The workgroup will gauge judicial officer interest levels for taking part in Law Day programs for May 1, 2021. The ABA Law Day theme is "Advancing the Rule of Law Now":

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/. For future planning, guest Elizabeth Parker noted that discussions are that the theme in 2022 will be “Civic Renewal.”

To promote interest, the workgroup may develop a template for judicial branch representatives to have an overview of the available opportunities. For example, programs available through schools, universities, community groups, the bar foundation, bar associations, and the AOC. Volunteers could select the audience they prefer, such as kids, teens, or adults. The workgroup discussed reminders at the court leadership conference and judicial conference that outreach opportunities exist and encouraging participation.

Members noted that Law Day requires planning 4-5 months before the presentation. Tempe’s program was limited to fifth graders but all fifth graders in the city were invited to attend. They used the ABA yearly theme and incorporated an art project that made the event more fun and engaging. Pima County’s program included giveaways and included participation from professors and the board of supervisors. A member suggested checking with Court of Appeals Judge David Gass, who was active when on the trial bench. The Chair will follow up.

The workgroup intends to incorporate AZCourtHelp’s existing visual tours of courts around the state: <https://azcourthelp.org/court-tours>.

Workgroup 5: Lead, Jessica Fotinos. The workgroup will review the Rapid Response Team concept eventually, but the AOC wants to further develop the concept internally before giving the workgroup direction.

The workgroup is documenting tech tools that are currently available, categorizing by type of technology, type of user (private, government, educational, institutional) and potential costs. The content will be general in some aspects because technology and ownership changes so often, there will be enough information to compare the documented product to whatever replaces it in the next generation or after a merger.

The workgroup will document the current processes for traditional and social media sources for reporting potential abuse or disinformation so that those outlets can review under their established standards.

5. Conforming changes to the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) regarding disinformation. The Chair updated the members that the progress on ACJA changes will depend in large part on action the Court takes regarding the rule petition that applies to judges. The Chair will review the ACJA modification process to determine the timing of when the ACJA proposals can be circulated for input from stakeholders groups to ensure the ACJA and rule petition are as coordinated as they can be.

6. Call to the public. The Chair made a call to the public. Lori Ford and Malinda Sherwyn addressed the task force.

7. Roadmap and comments for the good of the order. The next Task Force meeting will be March 17, 2021.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 10:00 - Noon.

Arizona State Courts Building, Conference Room 230

1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Link for remote audio/video attendance to be provided