

**Task Force on Countering Disinformation
State Courts Building, Phoenix
Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2021**

Members attending (remote unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person), Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, Kate Merolo (proxy for Fredric Bellamy), Jessica Fotinos, Dawn Gilpin, Joe Hengemuehler, Krisanne LoGalbo, Logan Clark (proxy for Scott Ruston), Deborah Schaefer.

Absent:, Shelly Bacon, David Fuller, Eduard Goodman, Patience Huntwork, Hon. Todd Lang.

Guests: Public members: Hank Stephenson.

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

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

The Chair welcomed members and made administrative comments. Members should anticipate September and October to be working meetings where ideas and items are presented and improved. Meetings will remain virtual. The concluding report is targeted for review and approval between October and November, with December reserved for final items and the completion of the task force's term.

2. Approval of minutes. The Chair called for corrections to the June 16, 2021 and July 21, 2021 meeting minutes. A correction was noted to the June minutes and no other corrections were offered.

Motion: A member moved to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded and approved with one abstention. CDTF: 2021-14

Motion: A member moved to approve the July 21, 2021 minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. CDTF: 2021-15

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

Workgroup 1: Lead, Debi Schaefer. The workgroup discussed and presented draft language intended to supplement an Administrative Order addressing the authority of superior court and municipal court presiding judges. The proposed language would add reference to designating a person or people to serve the function of a public information officer for individual courts or court departments, such as clerk's offices and probation departments. Once finalized, the AOC would relay the task force's recommendation to the AOC's legal department for consideration the next time the Administrative Order is updated. The members discussed and edited the draft language that was presented.

Motion: A member moved to approve the Administrative Order language as edited during the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. CDTF: 2021-16

The workgroup displayed the how-to guide for establishing a social media presence. The guide had been previously discussed and presented to the task force and is considered final for production, pending future edits as needed. The AOC will maintain the document going forward.

Workgroup 1 announced the work on its list of recommendations is now complete. Workgroup members were added to the meeting notifications for remaining workgroups 2, 4 and 5 and were encouraged to attend and participate as their schedules allow.

Workgroup 2: Lead, Krisanne LoGalbo, who presented the workgroup's disinformation one-pager, designed for public use at libraries, law libraries, and other public places. The document is designed to be printed with English on one side and a Spanish translation on the other and had been presented earlier for task force input and feedback. The document was further reviewed since the latest meeting by other court public information officers and law librarians. The workgroup updated the task force that final edits would be made at the workgroup's next meeting, then considered final for Spanish translation, posting, and distribution. The workgroup can share the final version at the September meeting. The AOC will maintain the document going forward.

The workgroup continues its review and development of a disinformation playbook, which will serve as a guide to Arizona courts with resources for identifying and responding to disinformation.

Workgroup 3: Lead, Chair Aaron Nash. The Chair noted that the workgroup's branding guide will be maintained by the AOC. Courts with network access will be able to view the materials on request. For courts outside the network, the AOC's communications office can share the resources on request in other formats. This resource is considered complete, although it will remain a work in progress.

Workgroup 4: The Chair provided the update. The AOC is moving forward with replacing the "Our Courts Arizona" website content with a "Community Outreach" website. The new website will launch with some legacy resources and new resources in a new design. The website will include new forms for the public to request presenters and for judicial branch judges and employees to register as presenters. The Chair will share the progress at a future meeting when the website is put in production. The Community Outreach website will continue to be a work in progress with new resources and functionality added over time.

Workgroup 5: Lead, Jessica Fotinos updated the task force that the review of technology for identifying and countering disinformation continues. As reported previously, the technology that exists is not designed for judicial branch application and is not at a reasonable price point for courts or court systems, but the searches continue.

Options for public/private partnerships continue under review. For example, working with media outlets, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) to counter disinformation through public outreach and education.

Judge Astrowksy confirmed that the Arizona Judges Association (AJA) will work with the California Judges Association (CJA) to discuss the infrastructure needed for the AJA to operate a Rapid Response Team. Jessica noted that Judge Bacigalupo from the CJA presented on Rapid Response Teams at the Conference of Court Public Information Officers' annual conference (virtually) earlier in the month.

The workgroup continues its work compiling information on media contacts. The final spreadsheet will be a living document that needs regular updating and will be maintained by the AOC.

The workgroup is near finalizing its spreadsheet of how to report suspected disinformation or other content that could violate online platforms' terms of use. The content is pulled directly from the platforms' public websites but is compiled into a single resource. The media and platform spreadsheets are near completion, with future edits by the AOC as needed.

4. Liaison updates.

Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS)

<http://acssaz.org/>:

As liaison, the Chair reported reminding the ACSS that supreme court arguments are livestreamed and available in a recorded archive for classroom use. The Tribal Law recording mentioned previously should be available for ACSS's use within the next week. The Arizona Bar Foundation's Law for Kids academies are free and posted online by the Foundation at <https://lawforkids.org/educators>.

Task force input for the liaison's follow-up: None.

Civic Education Community Engagement Program (CE2)

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

As liaison, the Chair reported the CE2 group met recently and are planning events around Constitution Day and Civics Week in September. CE2 was enthusiastic about working with active judicial branch staff in explaining how academic treatments of civic and government play out in daily life. CE2 is hosting weekly planning meetings leading to the events, which will be pre-recorded and virtual this year.

5. Call to the public. The Chair made a call to the public. Reporter Hank Stephenson introduced himself but did not comment on agenda items.

6. Roadmap. The next Task Force meeting will be September 15, 2021 and virtual.

7. Good of the Order and adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 9:30 - Noon.

Arizona State Courts Building and Virtual

1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Link for remote audio/video attendance to be provided