

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
FOR THE CORRECTIONS OFFICER RETIREMENT PLAN LOCAL BOARD
FOR THE JUDICIARY**

A Public Meeting of the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan Local Board for the Judiciary was convened Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom, Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

Board Members Present by Conference/Video Call: Kevin Kluge (Chair); Jason Hathcock; Jennifer Fish; Brandon Shimizu; Scott Mabery

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present by Conference/Video Call: Kayla Adkins, Board Secretary; Alexi Papalossi, Recorder; Yvonne Wong, AOC HR Officer; Leticia Chavez, AOC HR Supervisor; Jack Moody, AOC Legislative Officer; John Harris, Legal Counsel for Disability Applicant #25-01; Maria Land, Disability Applicant #25-01

Call to Order:

Approval of Minutes:

February 3, 2026 – Public Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Jason Hathcock moved to approve the public meeting minutes of the February 3, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Mabery and passed unanimously. The minutes stand approved. **CORP 2026-08**

2026 Legislative Update

Jack Moody, Legislative Officer for the Administrative Office of the Courts, reported on CORP-related 2026 legislation updates and answered questions proposed to him by the Board. Mr. Moody provided a status update on the following Bills:

Senate Bills:

- SB1270, SB1504, SB1035, SB1292, SB1314, SB1665

Mr. Moody explained to the Board that SB1270 would authorize an employer to make a supplemental contribution incentive payment of up to \$5,000 to the DC retirement plan account of a correctional officer at special service intervals. Mr. Hathcock asked Mr. Moody whether this bill would also affect CORP members along with correctional officers. Mr. Moody stated that he would further research the bill and update the Board with his findings.

Mr. Moody then discussed SB1504, saying that the bill failed in committee. Mr. Moody summarized the bill, stating that it would have modified the service requirement for Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) members hired on or after July 1, 2017, by allowing retirement after 25 years regardless of age.

Mr. Moody reported that SB1035 appropriates \$34 million from the state general fund in FY2026-27 to the Arizona Department of Corrections. The Board Chair asked Mr. Moody whether this affected state-funded probation staff, and Mr. Moody confirmed that it did not. Mr. Moody also explained that SB1292 would limit PSPRS and other plans administered by the PSPRS Board from owning not more than 5 percent of the voting stock of any one publicly traded corporation, instead of any one corporation.

Mr. Moody then informed the Board that SB1314 would appropriate a set amount from the state general fund in FY2026-27 to provide salary increases across criminal justice agencies, including a 14 percent increase for corrections officers and investigators in the Department of Corrections, a 14 percent increase for correctional officers in the Department of Juvenile Corrections, a 10 percent increase for all Department of Public Safety employees, and a 15 percent increase for state-funded probation officers and staff in the Administration of the Courts. The Board Chair clarified that if the bill passes, it doesn't guarantee an increase for all probation officers; additionally, each local county Board would have to approve the increases for all probation staff. He further stated that this bill would provide funding for the AOC to supplement the current funding for probation. Mr. Moody confirmed.

Mr. Moody lastly explained that SB1665 requires each state agency to adopt a standardized hiring process that assigns weighted, interview panel, and overall grades using published criteria and completes hiring within 90 days.

Proposal of Rules Change

The full text of proposed changes to the Rules of Local Board Procedure was provided for review and discussion. As requested by the Chair in the February 3, 2026, meeting, Nicolas Cornelius, Board Attorney, answered questions presented by the Board.

The Board Attorney advised the Board of their right to enter executive session.

Ms. Fish asked the Board attorney if the proposed language change would exclude members who may have had problems providing the Board with a pre-membership physical exam. The Board attorney stated it would not exclude members because of the distinction between a member who actively refuses to provide a physical exam and a member who completed an exam but had difficulty providing it to the Board. If a member states that they completed an exam, the Board can follow up to retrieve the information, and the proposed language would not negatively affect the member.

The Chair asked how the Board should proceed if it does not receive the physical exam in a timely manner. The Board's attorney advised that the incoming members should be notified if the physical exam has not been received. He added that the Board would need to review the case to

decide how to move forward. The Chair explained to the Board attorney that members are notified by certified mail that failing to complete a physical exam means they are waiving their rights to any disability case.

Mr. Mabery raised the concern that the statute does not specify a deadline for the member to complete the physical exam, and questioned what the Board's process would be if they received a physical exam later in the member's employment. The Board attorney further explained that the purpose of the rules and regulations is to establish a minimum standard of operational procedures and that the Board is within its rights to set a deadline for receiving pre-membership physical exams. The Chair stated he wanted to avoid adding restrictions that could restrict the Board's ability to review a case with extenuating circumstances. Mr. Hathcock agreed.

Ms. Fish stated that A.R.S. § 38-884(B), *Any employee who fails or refuses to submit the medical examination prescribed in this section is deemed to waive all rights to disability benefits under this article* -Article 6 of title 38, applies to newly hired members as well and should be added to section D1 in the Board's Rules and Procedures. The Chair asked Board staff to make the change.

MOTION: Jennifer Fish moved to approve proposed language updates to the CORP Local Board Rules and Procedures, including the addition of A.R.S. § 38-884(B) to Section D1, in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes. The motion was seconded by Brandon Shimizu and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-09**

Disability Case #25-01 Rehearing Update

Disability applicant #25-01, Maria Land, submitted a formal request in writing for a rehearing. Nick Cornelius, the Board Attorney, reviewed her request and communicated with Ms. Land's attorney.

Discussion:

The Board Chair asked the Board attorney to provide an update since the Board received the paperwork at the last minute. The Board Chair also stated that the focus should be on the right shoulder and whether it is a pre-existing condition, since the member refunded before returning to work a second time.

The Board attorney advised the Board of their right to enter executive session. He also stated for the record that Ms. Land and Mr. Harris, Ms. Land's legal counsel, were present.

The Board attorney explained that he and the Board Secretary discussed Ms. Land's refund and the discrepancy in her service time. He confirmed with the Board Secretary that someone from PSPRS will contact him to clarify Ms. Land's years of service.

The Board attorney explained that the recent documents received are in response to a phone call he had with Mr. Harris. The Board Attorney advised Mr. Harris that the Board needed a clearer

understanding of the basis for the rehearing request because the initial document received did not specify.

The Board Attorney explained to the Board that the rehearing request is outside the 60-day deadline and that the request appeared to refer to a different matter. He further clarified that the documents suggest the shoulder injury caused repetitive stress or other injuries. The Board Chair asked if that would be considered an ordinary disability, not an accident, to which the Board Attorney affirmed and stated that he doesn't believe it warrants a rehearing.

Mr. Harris stated that the left shoulder injury originated from a defensive tactics training incident in May 2016; he did not believe the injury was pre-existing. The Board Chair explained that Ms. Land refunded her contributions in September 2016 and did not repay the money before returning to work. The Board Attorney clarified that since Ms. Land did not repay the refunded contributions before returning, she was considered a new member regarding her service time.

Mr. Harris said that, in his and Ms. Land's understanding, when Ms. Land returned to work, it was retroactive to her previous service dates. The Chair explained that this was only for Ms. Land's accrual rates through the Maricopa Superior Court, but not for retirement purposes. The Board attorney further explained that this was the reason Ms. Land's shoulder injury was considered pre-existing. He clarified that the injury to the other shoulder is a different matter. Mr. Harris explained to the Board that the purpose of the amended application for rehearing is due to the cumulative effect of injuries to the right shoulder and right carpal tunnel, which have rendered Ms. Land unable to perform the essential tasks of her job.

The Chair explained to Mr. Harris that it would be a new ordinary disability request, not accidental, and it would not be tied to Ms. Land's pre-existing conditions. The Chair then raised the issue of the deadline for filing for disability.

Mr. Hathcock summarized the discussion and stated that the Board should review Ms. Land's previous applications to see if the left shoulder or carpal tunnel was listed. The Board Chair agreed and suggested that the Board table the request, noting that if the conditions were included in the previously submitted applications, the timeline would not be an issue. The Board could then consider a continued hearing and send Ms. Land for an IME on the trigger finger, carpal tunnel, and the right shoulder.

The Board Chair asked Mr. Cornelius if any further discussion was needed; he responded by suggesting that the Board schedule the item on the April 7, 2026, meeting agenda and that he would work with the Board Secretary to ensure the relevant information is provided to the Board.

The Chair asked Mr. Harris if there was anything further. Mr. Harris stated that he will contact the Board Attorney to ensure that all relevant documents are in order for presentation at the April 2026 meeting.

Ms. Land told the Board that she was told that any medical documents provided would be considered by the Board, and she wanted to ensure that her hand would be considered for a

disabling condition. Mr. Harris informed Ms. Land that he had submitted a request to the Board for an IME regarding the left and right shoulders and the carpal tunnel.

CORP Electronic Recording Certificate of Destruction

CORP Certificates of Records Destruction were approved by the Board Chair, Board Member Jason Hathcock, and the Board Secretary for the destruction of Board meeting recordings in accordance with the CORP Local Board for the Judiciary Rules of Local Board Procedure Section C(6)(e).

For Meetings at which no disability claims have been considered, such electronic recordings shall be maintained for ninety (90) days after the Minutes have been submitted to the Board of Trustees.

For Meetings at which a disability claim was considered, such electronic recordings shall be maintained until the Claimant reaches his or her normal retirement date.

The Secretary may destroy the electronic recording of a Local Board Meeting after the period in Section C(6)(e)(1) or (2) expires. The Secretary will prepare and retain a certificate of destruction when any electronic recordings are destroyed.

Electronic recordings were destroyed for the following meeting dates:

Local Board meetings without the consideration of a disability claim:

4/1/2025; 6/3/2025; 7/1/2025; 8/5/2025

Notice of Retiree Return to Work – Douglas Weaver

The Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work from the Maricopa County Judicial Branch for Douglas Weaver, indicating that Mr. Weaver retired from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office on May 7, 2025, with an effective CORP retirement date of June 1, 2025. He has since accepted an employment offer with the Maricopa County Judicial Branch and returned to work on January 5, 2026, in a non-CORP-designated position as a Security Officer.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38- 884. N-O. and Mr. Weaver's current position description are provided to the Board.

Finding: Mr. Weaver appears eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension because he returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position after retirement.

MOTION: Scott Mabery moved that the Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work for Douglas Weaver and found that (1) Mr. Weaver was eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension; (2) Mr. Weaver's employer, Maricopa County Judicial Branch, was not responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on his behalf because he

returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-10**

Notice of Retiree Return to Work – Joseph Nisse

The Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work from the Yavapai County Judicial Branch for Joseph Nisse, indicating that Mr. Nisse retired from the Yavapai County Adult Probation Department on October 21, 2022, with an effective CORP retirement date of November 1, 2022. He has since accepted an employment offer with the Yavapai County Judicial Branch and returned to work on November 12, 2025, in a non-CORP-designated position as a Program Coordinator III.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38-884. N-O. and Mr. Nisse's current position description are provided to the Board.

Finding: Mr. Nisse appears eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension because he returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position after retirement.

MOTION: Jason Hathcock moved that the Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work for Joseph Nisse and found that (1) Mr. Nisse was eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension; (2) Mr. Nisse's employer, Yavapai County Judicial Branch, was not responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on his behalf because he returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Fish and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-11**

Notice of Retiree Return to Work – Thomas Kelly

The Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work from the Maricopa County Judicial Branch for Thomas Kelly, indicating that Mr. Kelly retired from the Arizona Department of Corrections on February 1, 2025, with an effective CORP retirement date of March 1, 2025. He has since accepted an employment offer with the Maricopa County Judicial Branch and returned to work on February 2, 2026, in a non-CORP-designated position as a Security Officer.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38- 884. N-O. and Mr. Kelly's current position description are provided to the Board.

Finding: Mr. Kelly appears eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension because he returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position after retirement.

MOTION: Brandon Shimizu moved that the Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work for Thomas Kelly and found that (1) Mr. Kelly was eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension; (2) Mr. Kelly's employer, Maricopa County Judicial Branch, was not responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on his behalf because he returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-12**

Acknowledgment of CORP Physical Exam Final Letter:

Name	County	Letter Issue Date
Jaime Cota	Maricopa	12/1/2025

The Chair noted for the record that the CORP physical examination report for Jaime Cota was not received within 60 days of receiving their membership application and that a final letter requesting the examination report was sent via certified mail.

Approval of Membership:

The Board voted on the approval of the following requests for membership:

Name	County	Effective Enrollment Date	Tier
Alexis Gomez-Calderon	Coconino	1/25/2026	3
Gregory Churlik	Gila	2/1/2026	3
Kassie Boatright	Gila	2/1/2026	3
Jasmine Altamirano	Graham	2/15/2026	3
Celine Jolicouer	Maricopa	12/29/2025	3
Jaime Cota	Maricopa	11/10/2025	3
Jennifer Weller	Pima	2/1/2026	3
Roman Robles	Pima	2/1/2026	3
Pedro Paredes	Pima	2/1/2026	3
Gregg Olson	Yavapai	1/27/2026	3
Andy Ortega	Yavapai	2/1/2025	3
Kayla Hopper	Yavapai	2/15/2026	3
Kyle Jewinski	Yavapai	2/15/2026	3

Discussion:

Mr. Hathcock asked if Jennifer Well's position had been updated on the membership spreadsheet. The Board Secretary confirmed that she is with Adult Probation.

MOTION: Jennifer Fish moved to approve the 13 applicants listed on the agenda for this meeting for membership in CORP pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-893.D. and to note for the record that the physical examinations for Gregory Churlik, Jasmine Altamirano, Celine Jolicouer, Gregg Olson, and Kyle Jewinski identified a physical or mental condition or injury that existed or occurred before their dates of membership in the plan. The motion was seconded by Brandon Shimizu and passed unanimously. CORP 2026-13

Board Attorney Contract Review

In the May 2, 2023, Local Board Meeting, a motion was made to contract legal services with the Law Office of Nicolas J. Cornelius, PLLC, beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2026.

- A copy of the signed contract is provided to the Board.

Discussion:

The Board discussed different options and opinions on the matter, including timelines, soliciting bids, conflicts of interest, and the difficulties surrounding the process. The Chair asked the Board Secretary for her opinion. The Board Secretary raised concerns about finding an attorney with the necessary CORP experience.

Mr. Mabery asked if the duration of the contract was finite. The Chair explained that the Board has discretion over the duration, and Mr. Hathcock further explained that the contract can be terminated at any time by the attorney or the Board with proper notice.

Motion: Scott Mabery moved to instruct the Board Secretary to send a written notice to the Law Office of Nicolas J. Cornelius, PLLC, of its desire to extend the contract to provide legal counsel to the Board from July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2029. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Fish and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-14**

Final Approval of Language Update – Certified Letter:

During the February 3, 2026, meeting, the Board Chair requested that the language updates to the Certified Letter be officially approved for the record.

The updated certified letter was provided to the Board

MOTION: Brandon Shimizu moved to approve the proposed language updates to the certified letter in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-15**

Update on PSPRS Stars Completion

According to the PSPRS schedule, the Board-specific training will be held in March. If there are updates, the Board Staff will present them at the April 7, 2026, Local CORP Board Meeting.

Discussion:

The Board Secretary advised the Board that this will remain an action item. She further explained that the training that had occurred previously was specifically for county employers, and the training in March will be for Board staff.

Future Agenda Items:

- Review of Total and Permanent Disability Application #26-01 – John Myers
- Request of Retiree Return to Work
- Continued Review of Requested Rehearing of Disability Case #25-01

Discussion:

The Chair sought clarification on a question regarding the Board's review of a disability application from a member who had not yet terminated. Mr. Hathcock explained that a member can remain employed when they apply for disability, but they must be terminated before receiving disability benefits.

Call to the Public:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Transcribed March 6, 2026

DRAFT