



## MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2019  
Conference Room 329/330  
Arizona State Courts Building  
1501 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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**Present:** Frankie Jones (Chair), Honorable Lisa I. Abrams, Honorable David Cunanan, Professor Patricia Ferguson-Bohnee, Honorable Geri Hale, Catharina Johnson, William Knight, Judge Alisha Villa, Honorable Joan Wagener, Dawn Walton

**Telephonic:** Associate Dean Alfred Ray English

**Absent/Excused:** Mike Baumstark, Professor Paul Bennett, Honorable David Gass, Edgardo Gonzalez, Judge Evelyn Marez, Judge Maurice Portley (Ret.), Honorable Alicia M. Skupin, Judge Roxanne Song Ong (Ret.), Judge Penny Willrich (Ret.)

**Guest/Presenter:** Alicia Moffatt, Communications Specialist, AOC; Aaron Nash, Communications Director, AOC, Eileen Sullivan, Arizona Asian American Bar Association

**Staff:** Angela Pennington, Stacy Reinstein (AOC)

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## REGULAR BUSINESS

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

The May 2, 2019, meeting of Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary (COM) was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Frankie Jones, Chair.

After noting the number of new faces at the meeting, the committee members and staff were asked to go around the table and introduce themselves.

### Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2019

The draft minutes from the May 2, 2019 meeting were presented for approval.

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| <p><b>Motion:</b> To approve the May 2, 2019, minutes by Mr. William Knight. <b>Second:</b> by Ms. Catarina M. Johnson. <b>Vote:</b> Motion passed unanimously.</p> |
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## BUSINESS ITEMS AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

### Update: National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

Ms. Jones attended the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in May. This year's theme was "Pursuing the Dream: Continuing the Struggle for Racial and Ethnic Justice in America." Ms. Jones discussed the consortium and the corresponding activities, discussions, and exercises that took place.

#### Comments/Concerns:

- The disparity between the defendants in court, and the makeup of the judge, jury, and staff, i.e. "no one looks like me."
- The use of binary pronouns and properly addressing the transgender community in the courts.

### Planning for 2020 Chris Nakamura Judicial Workshop

The workshop will take place in Tucson at the 2020 State Bar Convention. Members of the commission will attend the State Bar Convention planning meetings to finalize details.

For the upcoming event, there will be a panel which will discuss the survey completed by all members of the bench. There will be discussion about the make up of the bench and how that compares to the population of Arizona. The commission would also like to have multiple judges available to conversations in a round robin style environment. There is also the possibility of doing mock interviews to help attendees better understand the process of becoming a judge.

#### Comments/Concerns:

- For future sessions of the workshop, the Collaborative Bar holds an annual reception which could provide an opportune forum.
- To increase the exposure of open positions within the judiciary and increase participation on the judicial boards and commissions, the committee would like to create an ad hoc workgroup.

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| <p><b>Motion:</b> To create a new ad hoc workgroup; motion made by Judge David Cunanan.<br/><b>Second:</b> by Judge Geri Hale. <b>Vote:</b> Motion passed unanimously.</p> |
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### Planning for 2020 Legal Futures Event

Ms. Jones gave new commission members an overview of the 2019 Legal Futures Event. Preliminary planning and discussion of the 2020 event took place. Possible dates for the event, age ranges and schools of potential invitees were considered.

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## OTHER BUSINESS

### News & Announcements:

- NABAz is having their annual dinner September 14, 2019.
- Los Abogados is having their annual gala October 5, 2019.
- The Arizona Black Bar has their annual scholarship dinner on September 27, 2019.

#### Good of the Order/Call to the Public:

- Aaron Nash, Communications Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), spoke to the commission.
- No one answered the call to the public.

#### Adjournment

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| <p><b>Motion:</b> To adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Lisa Abrams. <b>Second:</b> by Judge Hale. <b>Action:</b> By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.</p> |
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#### Next Meeting

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Arizona State Courts Building

Conference Room 119A/B