

Minutes of Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection
Friday, October 9, 2009
Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, Illinois

Call to Order: County Board Chair Weibel called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. In the absence of CACJS Chair Aaron Ammons, Matt Gladney (Chair of the County Board's Justice & Social Services Committee) was elected Interim Chair of the meeting.

Roll Call: Seven members appointed from the General Public were present: Tricia Avery, Bill Brown, Brian Dolinar, Barbara Kessel, Jennifer Putman, Patrick Thompson, Ken Turner. Two members appointed from the General Public were absent: Lorraine Cowart, Joan Miller. Two Elected Officials were present: Justice & Social Services Committee Chair Matt Gladney, County Board Chair C. Pius Weibel. Three Court Officials were present: Judge Thomas Difanis, Court Administrator Roger Holland, Public Defender Randy Rosenbaum.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 25 were approved as corrected.

Ammons/Avery Report to Justice & Social Services Committee: Vice-Chair Avery summarized the written and oral reports that she and Chair Ammons provided for the J&SS Committee's October 5 meeting.

Review of Revisions to Juror Questionnaire: Courts Administrator Holland distributed copies of the most recently revised Juror Qualification Questionnaire. Weibel provided lists of racial categories used by the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census. Regarding Question 8 in Section D of the juror questionnaire, which asks prospective jurors to identify themselves by race or ethnicity, Avery asked whether an option for self-identification could be offered in addition to offering Black, White, Asian, American Indian, Hispanic, and Other as descriptors of race or ethnicity. Holland replied that self-identified responses could not easily be read by computer. Members recommended replacing references to "race" with "race/ethnicity," and offered other wording changes. Holland invited Members to submit other edits, but not after October 16.

New Business

Civic Engagement Initiative Grant Kimberlie Kranich, Director of Community Outreach for Illinois Public Media and Co-Director of the Youth Media Workshop, outlined the parameters of applying for one of ten \$10,000 grants that will be awarded by UIUC's Vice-Chancellor for Civic Engagement. Kranich invited the CACJS to work with her in writing a proposal for a one-year project that would engage youth in learning about and educating peers regarding responsibilities of jury service; one product of the project could be a culturally relevant video created by the YMW for use by the CACJS in its public education campaign. A letter of intent to partner with the YMW—signed by a representative of the County Board or of the Circuit Court—is a necessary element of the application, due Monday, November 2. Kranich estimated the cost of producing a professional video to be between \$500 and \$1,000 per minute. If awarded a Civic

Engagement Initiative grant, Kranich envisions employing YMW participants to produce the video, serving the CACJS and the Circuit Court as their clients.

State Legislation to Increase Juror Stipend (HB 4002) Administrator Holland distributed synopses of a bill (sponsored by Rep. Sidney Mathias) that would amend the Illinois Revised Statutes' Counties Code to allow for collection of fees from plaintiffs and defendants in order to establish a County Juror Fund and increase jurors' per diem pay. Holland also provided copies of Section 4-11001 of the Counties Code, which governs juror fees, and a printout showing the cost to date in FY09 for juror per diem fees in Champaign County. In discussing HB 4002, several CACJS members expressed opposition to classing as a Class C Misdemeanor the willful refusal to honor a summons to jury duty.

Other Business: Members discussed inviting a member(s) of Champaign County's Jury Commission to a future CACJS meeting. Judge Difanis suggested that it may be most convenient for Commissioner Wanda Adams to accept such an invitation.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Friday, October 23.

Adjournment: Interim Chair Gladney adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Putman
CACJS Secretary