

DRAFT Minutes
Connecticut Judicial Branch Jury Selection Task Force
October 19, 2020
2:00

Meeting held remotely using Microsoft Teams

The meeting was also available for live streaming on the Judicial Branch YouTube Channel.

Members in attendance: Hon. Chase T. Rogers (Co-Chair), Hon. Omar A. Williams (Co-Chair), Hon. James W. Abrams, Hon. Joan Alexander, Hon. Joette Katz, Hon. Douglas Lavine, State Rep. Matthew Blumenthal, Atty. Charles DeLuca, Atty. Tais C. Ericson, Dean Timothy Fisher, Atty. Aigné Goldsby, Ms. Esther Harris, Atty. Claire M. Howard, Atty. James J. Healy, Ms. Hannah Kogan, Atty. Erik T. Lohr, Atty. Charleen E. Merced Agosto, Atty. Christine Perra Rapillo, Atty. Preston Tisdale, Atty. Harry Weller, Atty. Paul D. Williams, Atty. Anna Van Cleave

Also in attendance: Hon. Elizabeth Bozzuto, Hon. Patrick Carroll III, Ms. Melissa Farley, Ms. Krista Hess, Atty. Daniel Krisch, Hon. Robin Wilson

- I. **Welcome:** Judge Williams welcomed the Task Force members. He reminded them of the remaining Task Force meeting dates.

The minutes of the September 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

- II. **Data, Statutes & Rules Subcommittee Update:** Attorney Claire M. Howard reported that this subcommittee has completed a draft report with substantive recommendations. Recommendations include making the question about race and ethnicity on the juror questionnaire mandatory, adding other demographic questions that will be optional, and building a database for research purposes, with personally identifying information removed and restricted as appropriate. Other recommendations include restricting access to personal identifying information about individual jurors to trial counsel only. The recommendations would allow the Judicial Branch to collect data on challenges, including information about parties and counsel that exercised those peremptory challenges. Dean Timothy Fisher described requirements for implementation of the recommendations, if adopted. Implementation would require changes to C.G.S. sec. 51-232, Practice Book rules, and judicial forms.
- III. **Jury Summoning Process Subcommittee Update:** Attorney Harry Weller reported that the subcommittee is completing research and drafting statutory language. They have looked at ways to increase the delivery of and response to the jury summons. Jury administration is working with a new vendor and the subcommittee anticipates more details in the coming weeks on methodologies for redesigning the jury summons to increase engagement. Additionally, the new vendor will be using the national change of address system which should reduce the number of undeliverable summonses.
- IV. **Implicit Bias in the Jury Selection Process & Batson Challenges Subcommittee Update:** Attorney Daniel Krisch reported that both the Model Jury Instructions Work Group and Peremptory Challenges Work Group have submitted a draft report with recommendations to the subcommittee co-chairs for review by the whole subcommittee.

Judge Lavine reported that the Batson Workgroup is working on drafting a rule similar Washington's Rule 37.

- V. **Juror Outreach and Education Subcommittee Update:** Attorney Charleen Merced Agosto reported that the subcommittee will be sharing recommendations at their upcoming subcommittee meeting. It is anticipated that recommendations may relate to outreach to community groups, outreach to high schools and colleges, successful measures implemented in other states, and recommendations related to important logistical information jurors may need for service, i.e. bus and parking information.
- VI. **Other Business:** Justice Rogers reminded members that if recommending statutory changes, the Practice Book rules must be consistent. Judge Williams reviewed timelines for submission of recommendations.
- VII. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.