

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

January 22, 2019
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
225 Spring Street, Room 4B, Wethersfield

MINUTES

Attendees: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Isabel Alvarez, Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Sandra Cardone, Linda J. Cimino, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, Zarin Kapur, Meghan Korn, Daisy Ortiz, Michaelangelo Palmieri, Philip Strambler, and Shawna Woodard

Guests: Brittany Kaplan

Absent: Juanita Halepas, Cristina Johnson, Ines Nieves, Felix Rodriguez, Spiro Uyar, and Ewa Wojewodzki

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

The minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Update on Invitation to Dr. Stephen Carter

The Black History Month 2019 event has been postponed as we were unable to secure the keynote speaker. We will attempt to confirm another date with Dr. Stephen Carter, the Chief Justice, Justice Kahn and the venue. We may consider a date after June 5, 2019, or invite Dr. Carter to be the Diversity Week 2019 keynote.

SJI Community Outreach Video Update

Shawna Woodard submitted a request to the Judicial Branch Web Board to feature the promotional video on jud.ct.gov. She is working on the translated subtitles with Interpreter and Translator Services.

Train the Trainer for ACCC Members

Troy Brown will begin the research for creating a program for ACCC members. Esther Harris recommended that the curriculum should include observations of other seasoned trainers. Linda Cimino added it should also include some stock answers to typical questions, such as “Why do I have to be here?” Troy added that, in addition to a Train the Trainer program, it is important that the individual practice the delivery of training in live sessions. He also noted that participating in ACCC meetings and conversations will enhance a trainer’s ability in the classroom.

Subcommittee Reports

Gender Fluidity and Judicial Branch Policy 618: On behalf of the ACCC, Sam Bruder submitted to Brian Hill, Director of Human Resources Management, two proposed amendments to the Branch’s dress code. Brian confirmed receipt of the proposals and said he has two HRM employees who can review them. Linda Cimino added that Employee Well-Being, a Human Capital subcommittee, was charged with reviewing the dress code. A copy of the proposal will be sent to the subcommittee.

Cultural/Religious Issues with ID Verification: PJ Deak reported that Tais Ericson, Executive Director of the Superior Court Operations Division, received our response on the matter. She will discuss it further with the Chief Court Administrator, Judge Carroll. Krista Hess, Director of Court Operations, also discussed the matter with the Judicial District Chief Clerks. Everyone agrees that we

should have a policy on how to respectfully confirm the identity, when necessary, of an individual wearing a full or partial head covering.

Action and Reflection: Due to a low number of confirmed responses, the Holiday Potluck and Ethnography session is postponed until February 26, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. More details will be sent at a later date.

FCR 100 Curriculum Revisions with SJI Educational Video: Troy Brown reported that he has not reviewed the curriculum yet to include the SJI Educational Video. This will be addressed at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.