

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

March 16, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Video-Conference

MINUTES

Attendees: Judge Sanchez-Figueroa (Chair); Isabel Alvarez, Juana Brown, Troy Brown, Lia Cestaro, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, Brian Hill, Zarin Kapur, Meghan Korn, Daisy Ortiz, and Michaelangelo Palmieri

Absent: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chairman Emeritus), Samuel Bruder, Sandra Cardone, Phil Strambler, Spiro Uyar, Ewa Wojewodzki, and Shawna Woodard

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

NCSC Webinar – Discussion on a diversity, equity and inclusion plan for the Judicial Branch

Continued discussion about a diversity, equity and inclusion plan for CT Judicial Branch. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa spoke with Chief Justice Robinson about our (ACCC) interest in a dedicated unit and what that would require. Brian Hill is on a working group for NCSC and will participate in roundtable discussions on how other courts utilize the role of DEI coordinator. Isabel Alvarez to forward the proposal for a DEI unit that was previously submitted.

Continued Discussion on Gender Identity

Brian Hill provided a recap of the purpose of the subcommittee. The subcommittee decided it was necessary to step back from their initial approach and pursue other avenues since those on the subcommittee do not have lived experience. A larger discussion ensued around the intricacies of pronouns and gender identity. Ultimately the group decided to “take a leap” and draft recommendations even if they need to be revised at a later time. The subcommittee will continue working to make recommendations to the ACCC soon.

Race and Gender on the Applicant Resource Information Sheet (ARIS)

Brian Hill provided a brief recap on the history of the ARIS form, the voluntary demographic data that is collected when a person applies for a position the Judicial Branch, and therefore it is no longer necessary to collect that same data at the time of the interview. Chief Court Administrator Judge Carroll and Judicial Human Resources approved the removal of demographic information from the ARIS form. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa motioned for a vote on the ARIS form to remove the demographic data. Patrick Deak motioned; Lia Cestaro seconds. The vote was unanimous from all ten (10) committee members present by a show of hands of those in support of removing the demographic data from the ARIS form.

New Business

None

Announcements

Zarin Kapur and Michaelangelo Palmieri are retiring! This is their last ACCC meeting. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa thanked them both for their commitment to the committee.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.