

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

March 27, 2018
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
225 Spring Street, Room 204
Wethersfield

MINUTES

Attendees: Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Isabel Alvarez, Samuel Bruder, Sandra Cardone, Alison Chandler, Karen Chorney, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, Zarin Kapur, Meghan Korn, Daisy Ortiz, Michael Palmieri, Felix Rodriguez, Philip Strambler, Spiro Uyar, Ewa Wojewodzki, Shawna Woodard

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The meeting commenced at 2:10 p.m. with welcoming remarks by Justice Richard A. Robinson. Minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2018 were unanimously approved.

Diversity Week 2018

Samuel Bruder reported a status on the planning of this year's Diversity Week, which included the theme. A motion to accept the theme was unanimously approved.

ACCC Video Update

Karen Chorney reported that Middlesex Community College is currently editing the footage. The State Justice Institute granted us an extension for completion of the educational video project. The video crew has been informed the project should be completed by mid-May.

GAL/AMC Training Update

Samuel Bruder reported that our expanded outline was submitted to The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Children through Judge Bozzuto, who complemented our work.

Discussion on Gender Identity and Judicial Branch Policy 618

The members engaged in a discussion about gender identity, expression and fluidity and how the Branch's policies and procedures, particularly the dress code policy and the gender categories on form JD-ES-139, might be limiting. A subcommittee was formed to research this further, including contacting other states through the National Center for State Courts to provide some guidance in the matter. Justice Robinson volunteered to serve on this subcommittee as an ex-officio member. Other volunteers were Felix Rodriguez, Meghan Korn, Samuel Bruder, PJ Deak, and Daisy Ortiz.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Justice Robinson reminded the membership to report out on the trainings and presentations they conduct internal and external to the Branch.
- Meghan Korn and Troy Brown will facilitate a discussion on Miss Representation, a documentary on Netflix, for Women's History Month.
- Zarin Kapur delivered Culture of Poverty at the New England Fatherhood Conference.
- The Office of the Public Defender contacted Troy Brown to participate in a simulation model called "Families in Crisis." Its purpose is to make people aware of how they view a client's economic status. This model is similar to what the Branch does in its Culture

of Poverty course.

- Justice Robinson will conduct a training for the State's Attorneys on the morning of June 14th.
- The Lunch and Learn, *My Multicultural Self*, is scheduled for April 14th in Litchfield. Shawna will send a reminder e-mail to the Branch from the ACCC.
- Diversity Week 2017 photos are saved in the K drive folder.
- On May 12th, PJ is hosting a screening and discussion of the film "Delores" with the Immigrants and Refugees Task Force.
- Daisy Ortiz announced that on April 28th, the Borinqueneers monument will be unveiled in New Britain.
- Felix Rodriguez volunteered to receive ACCC members' announcements about events and distribute to the committee via e-mail on a weekly basis.
- A new subcommittee was formed to plan future meeting topics for members to learn more about the many facets of cultural competency and diversity. Volunteers were Troy Brown, Zarin Kapur, Esther Harris, and Phil Strambler.
- Isabel Alvarez encouraged all members to attend the events sponsored by the CSSD Multicultural Affairs Unit.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.