

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

March 28, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
Video-Conference

MINUTES

Attendees: Judge Sanchez-Figueroa (Chair); Isabel Alvarez, Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Lia Cestaro, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, Brian Hill, Meghan Korn, Delbert Martinez, Daisy Ortiz, Michael Snyder, Philip Strambler, Spiro Uyar, and Shawna Woodard

Guest: Chief Court Administrator, Judge Bozzuto

Absent: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chairman Emeritus) and Ewa Wojewodzki

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members introduced themselves to Judge Bozzuto. Judge Bozzuto thanked the ACCC members for our time and service on the committee. She complimented the committee's programming, Diversity Week, policy recommendations, and urging the Branch to establish its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Unit as activities that help move the Branch forward. She shared that her office looks forward to continued collaboration with the ACCC and the DEI Unit. With a collective commitment to diversity and inclusion, we will work together to build a better Judicial Branch for our employees and the public.

The minutes from the January 18, 2023 and February 22, 2023 meetings were unanimously approved.

Diversity Week 2023

Shawna Woodard reported the subcommittee members include her, Isabel Alvarez, Samuel Bruder, Esther Harris, and Lia Cestaro. Troy Brown requested to be added to the subcommittee. Isabel will schedule a biweekly subcommittee meeting starting Thursday, April 6th at 2:00 p.m. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa plans to attend subcommittee meetings when her schedule allows. The first order of business will be to reserve the Legislative Office Building through the External Affairs Division. Shawna and Isabel will confirm with the ACCC the availability of the LOB for the Opening Celebration. Shawna also noted that the LMS demo proved that it can handle the registration for the Diversity Week Opening Celebration.

Future Projects/Activities Status

Gender Identity Proposal Update: Judge Sanchez-Figueroa and Troy will meet to discuss next steps for the proposal. Lia Cestaro offered her assistance if needed.

Focus Groups: Troy plans to propose focus groups as an activity of the DEI Unit. He would like for members of the ACCC to assist with conducting the focus groups. Troy and Judge Sanchez-Figueroa will discuss this in more detail at their meeting.

Foundations in Cultural Responsiveness (FCR) 100: Lia reported that FCR 100 is scheduled once a month for April, May, and June. She is working on the schedule for the second half of the year. Lia is still in the process of writing an RFP to recruit individuals external to the Branch to co-facilitate sessions. Troy added that Judge Bozzuto and Judge Ficeto plan to attend a future session. He also met with Chief Justice Robinson and they discussed how we may support judges who want to attend FCR 100 or other cultural competency courses as there is a commitment to get judges involved in the Branch's DEI efforts. Members of the ACCC are encouraged to enroll in an FCR 100 class and as many other cultural competency classes as possible.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Troy thanked the members for their support since the announcement was made about his promotion to Director of the new DEI unit. He expects that the ACCC and the CSSD Multicultural Affairs Unit will be of great resource in deciding the direction of the new office.

Announcements

The committee discussed having an in-person meeting in either June or July starting at 1:00 and including a potluck lunch. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa will confirm the availability of the Middlesex Jury Room.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency will be May 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.