

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

May 22, 2018
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, Alison Chandler, Karen Chorney, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, Zarin Kapur, Meghan Korn, Ines Nieves, Daisy Ortiz, Felix Rodriguez, Philip Strambler, Spiro Uyar, Ewa Wojewodzki, and Shawna Woodard

Absent: Linda J. Cimino, Cristina Johnson, and Michael Palmieri

Chief Justice Robinson called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

The minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

Diversity Week 2018

Samuel Bruder reported a status of securing a keynote speaker. The Diversity Week Subcommittee is interested in contacting a speaker who lives in New York and has ties to Hartford, Connecticut. Chief Justice Robinson will assist them with making the connection. Samuel also reported that the Week's learning events will begin in the afternoon on Opening Day again. More information about the Opening Celebration breakout sessions and the Week's learning events will be reported at the next ACCC meeting.

ACCC Video

Karen Chorney reported that she has the edited version of the educational video. She will debut the video at the end of this meeting for comments.

GAL/AMC Training

Samuel Bruder reported that Zarin Kapur and Troy Brown, who are co-facilitating the session, are meeting on Friday. Isabel Alvarez, the back-up presenter, will join them.

Status of New Subcommittees:

Discussion on Gender Identity and Judicial Branch Policy 618: Samuel Bruder reported that the Subcommittee met prior to this meeting and will meet again on June 26, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. They plan to formulate a plan for researching the issue and a recommendation for change. PJ Deak reported that he was unable to find any other state courts through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) that have addressed this issue or who may be able to guide us. However, he noted that one state court made no mention of gender within their dress code policy. The Subcommittee will discuss the feasibility of consulting with an outside entity for approved language to support their final recommendation to the Judicial Branch.

Action and Reflection: Esther Harris reported that the Subcommittee met once in March. They plan to present a moderated discussion around *The Loving Generation*, a documentary series about the generation of children, now adults, born to one black and one white parent after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967). The Subcommittee is also considering an activity that would

involve all ACCC members to develop an ethnography and share. Chief Justice Robinson approved *The Loving Generation* discussion for the June meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Chief Justice Robinson announced:

- He will facilitate a training and breakout session for the Louisiana Bar in Florida.
- He and Justice Kahn will conduct a training session for the Connecticut State's Attorneys.
- He will present two trainings in Colorado for the Colorado Judiciary: one for judges and the other for staff.

Felix Rodriguez e-mailed the ACCC information about a play titled "In the Heights" at the Playhouse on Park in West Hartford. Karen Chorney encouraged everyone to attend.

Troy Brown and Zarin Kapur will co-facilitate training for the Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for Minor Children on June 14th at the Legislative Office Building.

Felix Rodriguez is the author of "Dad, Me, and Muhammad Ali: A Father and Son Story." His book is available on Amazon for purchase.

Meghan Korn announced:

- She and Troy Brown will present a workshop titled "Unpacking Privilege" at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Hartford on July 19th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Troy Brown and Ellen Boynton from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will present "Unfiltered Conversations on Race Part I" on August 2nd. Part II will occur on August 16th. The first day is a prerequisite for the second.

PJ Deak announced:

- IRIS and Refugees fundraiser on September 22nd
- IRIS and Yale Refugees Clinic on mental health on October 27th
- He also shared details on the youth and refugees conference at the United Nations in New York

Chief Justice Robinson invited the ACCC members to attend his swearing-in ceremony at the Supreme Court on June 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Karen Chorney played the ACCC Educational Video, which was edited and 25 minutes in duration. Members were overall pleased with the product. Karen noted there were two actors who declined to sign the Judicial Branch release form allowing us to use their likeness for any reason external to training Branch employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.