

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

July 20, 2022
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 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, Daisy Ortiz, Michael Snyder, Spiro Uyar, and Shawna Woodard

Absent: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chairman Emeritus), Sandra Cardone, Delbert Martinez, Phillip Strambler, and Ewa Wojewodzki

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. She welcomed Michael Snyder of External Affairs who was recently appointed to the ACCC with the recommendation of his Executive Director, Melissa Farley. Mike replaces member Juana Brown who recently retired from the Judicial Branch. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa also congratulated Brian Hill on his promotion to Executive Director, Administrative Services Division.

Minutes from the May 25, 2022 were unanimously approved with one correction to the date of the last meeting.

Diversity Week 2022

The ACCC is partnering with the Employee Education and Development Unit to plan this year's Diversity Week. Isabel Alvarez reported that the Subcommittee is focusing on securing a keynote speaker and 5-10 workshops for the week. The graphic designer is working on the artwork for this year's theme.

Gender Identity Update

Lia Cestaro previously shared the Transgender Subcommittee Proposal and received minor edits. The proposal outlines several recommendations that may assist the Branch in becoming more culturally responsive towards non-cisgender individuals. After a few more minor edits, the committee is prepared for Judge Sanchez-Figueroa to share the proposal with Chief Justice Robinson for his final review.

Race and Gender on the ARIS Form

Brian Hill reported that in April 2022 the ARIS form was revised to remove the Race and Gender fields. Unofficially, the feedback from employees who participate on interview panels has been positive. The ACCC is proud of its role in making these changes.

New Business

Troy Brown requested that the committee review previous minutes and notes to determine if there are any ideas or projects we discussed that may need to be put back on a future agenda. It was noted that the proposal for an office for diversity and inclusion may be one.

PJ added that the committee may want to review the [2022 Trends in State Courts](#) published by the National Center for State Courts. One of the trends, Action Steps to Eliminating Racism and Bias in the Courts, may serve as a springboard for other issues we may want to explore.

Announcements

At the May 2022 meeting, Troy announced the re-launch of FCR 100 (in-person sessions). He reported that the first session went very well, and people appeared to feel comfortable being in the room together. He expects to schedule more in-person classes for the Fall. Additionally, CSSD plans to recruit more facilitators.

Planning for Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) is underway by CSSD. More information will be sent at a later date.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency will be September 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.