



Office for Victims Programs
700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000
Lakewood, CO 80215

HB23-1108 – Judicial Taskforce
Minutes – August 29, 2023

A meeting for the Judicial Taskforce was held on August 29, 2023 and it was a hybrid meeting. Chief Justice Brian Boatright called the meeting to order. The following members of the Taskforce were present:

Chief Justice Brian Boatright (Co-Chair), Kelly Kissell (Co-Chair), Margaret Abrams, Hon. Michelle Amico, Dr. Steven Berkowitz, Hon. Hon. Diana May for Jill Brady, Zak Brown, Briana Geter, Hon. Kolony Fields, Alexis Fredrickson, Roshan Kalantar, Dalia Labrador, Gina Lopez, Jennifer Mendoza, Chris Radeff, Christine Rinke, Hon. Valarie Robison, Courtney Sutton, Emily Tofte Nestaval

Present from the Domestic Relations (DR) Working Group: Sandi Gumeson, Ann Gushurst, and Rajesh Kukreja.

Chief Justice Boatright provided an overview of the judicial selection process. The overview included an explanation of nominating commissions (one per Judicial District), the Governor's interview process and timeline for making appointments, and the role of Office of Judicial Performance in evaluating judicial performance. Chief Justice Boatright explained that appointments are on a rolling basis as vacancies occur and an appointment for a vacancy has to be made within 30 days. There are not term limits and the mandatory retirement age is at the age of 72.

Judge Michelle Amico and Jennifer Mendoza provided an overview of the current judicial trainings that are offered. The Taskforce was provided a notebook with an overview of the training opportunities. Taskforce members were also provided a copy of *Judicial Education Opportunities in Colorado* which is an extensive summary of the various types of trainings that are currently offered to judicial personnel. The document was put together by the Judicial Education Unit within the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO).

The following is a list of the education opportunities that were discussed:

- The Annual Judicial Conference
- New Judge Orientation
- Advanced New Judge Orientation
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Institute
- Domestic Relations and Probate Institute





- Juvenile Judges Institute
- Domestic Relations 101 – Post Conference Session
- Peer to Peer Coaching
- Colorado Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education
- Bench Basics – Pre-recorded videos
- Judicial filming
- Judicial Wellbeing website

There is a tracking system through Colorado Judicial Education to submit transcripts to document which trainings have been completed by each judge.

Chris Radeff provided a brief update on behalf of the Domestic Relations Working Group. The working group has created five different surveys that will be sent out in the coming week or so to gather feedback about the domestic relations process. The surveys will be sent out to mental health providers, financial experts, family law practitioners, judicial officers, and parties to a DR case. The surveys will be distributed via a list serve for some of the disciplines and there will be survey links and QR codes provided to attorneys and they will also be posted on the Taskforce website. The working group is also looking at Colorado and national trainings to compare with the survey results so the DR working group can suggest a curriculum to the full Taskforce.

Chief Justice Boatright asked for any public comment. Carl Roberts spoke and noted his concern that the legislation excluded psychological and emotional abuse, the use of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which was the basis for his opposition to HB23-1107 and HB23-1108. Dr. William Bernet indicated that he had some comments regarding training but he said he would provide a written statement instead.

The discussion regarding the Keeping Children Safe from Violence Act was continued for the next meeting because there was not sufficient time left.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 10:30 a.m.

