

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

MINUTES

May 17, 2010 Meeting

Persons Present:

Judge Harper (Chair), Jeanne Milstein (OCA), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Chris Arciero (DPS), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Werner Oyanadel (CT Puerto Rican and Latino Affairs Commission), Tracey Gove (House of Reps), Judith Rossi (OCSA), Kay Berris (Judicial), Esther Harris, Deborah Fuller (Judicial), Andrew Clark (IMRP), Lyndsay Ruffolo (IMRP).

Meeting commenced at 12:35 pm

- I. Welcome
- II. Joint Training on Implicit Bias and Eyewitness Identification – Recap & Follow-up
 - a. Judith Rossi gave an update on the collaborative symposium that was held on April 15, 2010.
 - b. Judge Harper spoke about the recommendations that came out of the symposium:
 - i. Putting a discussion of implicit bias in the video that is shown to jurors when they appear for jury service, and
 - ii. Revising jury instructions given by judges to include an instruction on implicit bias.
 - iii. Kay Berris gave some background on the jury videos that are currently shown, and stated that since the Commission on Public Service and Trust Jury Committee is working on developing a new video, this suggestion is very timely.
 - iv. Any suggestion should be submitted to Judge DiPentima, chair of the Public Service and Trust Commission, as well as Judges Lager and D'Addabbo, co-chairs of the jury committee.
 - v. Kay also gave members an overview of recent developments in the area of jury administration.
- III. Legislative Update
 - a. Deborah Fuller informed the members that legislation establishing a Sentencing Commission passed but has not yet

been signed by the Governor. She also informed the members that, pursuant to a recommendation by the Commission, an Adult Diversion Pilot Program will be starting in New Haven.

- b. Werner Oyanadel brought-up the issues that were raised during the session by the Black and Latino Caucus regarding the lack of diversity in the group of attorneys the Governor nominated for judgeships. He suggested that the Commission issue a statement about the importance of diversifying the bench.
 - i. Judith Rossi pointed out that all areas of the criminal justice system, not only judgeships, need to be diverse – prosecutors, marshals, police, etc.

IV. Update from Working Groups

- a. Tracy Gove gave an update on the Education, Training & Cultural Competency Working Group, which expects to finalize recommendations at their next meeting.
- b. Ann-Marie related that the Pre-Arrest, Prevention & Community-based Programs Working Group is in the process of identifying community activities that intersect with the Commission’s work and would like the Commission to serve as a repository of the information.

V. Other business

- a. Jeanne Milstein reminded the group that the Commission is in its 10th year. To commemorate the 10th Anniversary, she suggested that Judge Harper write an Op-Ed about the Commission’s accomplishments and challenges, also mentioning the need for diversity on the bench. This would also serve the purpose of making the gubernatorial and other candidates aware of the Commission’s work.
 - i. The group unanimously endorsed taking this action.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.