



## Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Race, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 // 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
**Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)**

Co-Chairs Justice Rebecca Dallet and Judge Gwen Topping

Subcommittee Members Present:	Justice Rebecca Dallet, Judge Gwen Topping, Ashley Billig, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Judge Jon Richards, Jerome Dillard, Jane Graham-Jennings, Judge Emily Lonergan, Judge Mary Triggiano
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Shon Barnes, Rep. Evan Goyke, Blake Gross, Derek Mosley, Sheriff Tammy Sternard, Kelli Thompson, Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Kimberly Lawton, Judge Elliott Levine, Judge Neal “Chip” Nielsen
DOJ Staff:	Lara Keny, Ryan Anderson, Mike Austin, Phil Zell, Brad Kelly, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Kerrie Fanning
Other Agency Staff:	Ann Olson, Tyler Brandt

### Welcome and Opening Comments

Subcommittee Co–Chair Justice Dallet welcomed members to the meeting at 12:15 pm.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2023 and December 7, 2023

The Subcommittee did not have quorum to approve the October 5, 2023, and December 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

### Master Jury List Updates and Discussion

Justice Dallet began discussion for updating the master jury list. The Subcommittee continues to find ways to increase the jury pool list. Justice Dallet asked if we need a jury service statute amendment.

Subcommittee member Jon Richards suggested the State Bar of Wisconsin and prosecutors could manage the statute amendment jointly.

Subcommittee member Mary Triggiano asked if the State Courts still had a judiciary committee. Dallet answered yes but the committee gives feedback not on policy but only for how it can affect the state courts system as a whole.

Ann Olson, Office of Court Operations – Wisconsin Court System, reported the change would be better as legislation discussed with State Courts Director first. State Courts has done a little data analysis of jury data. There are no problems in 95% of counties. Asking for a change in data

matching could be a big lift, especially if the data doesn't add a significant number to the change. We should evaluate the quality of impact.

Subcommittee member Triggiano reported that when Milwaukee County Circuit Courts were focused on treatment court legislation, we were told committees couldn't precipitate legislation or have discussions about it.

Co-Chair Dallet thinks even a 2% - 3% change would be huge with respect to populations of color.

Tyler Brandt, Office of Court Operations – Wisconsin Court System, reported the inclusiveness rate increased in Dane and Milwaukee Counties. Court Operations is not able to do larger evaluation with other counties because of bandwidth and minimum procedures.

Brandt added:

- Addresses are not updated regularly. County clerks are required to update addresses annually.
- Small counties are hesitant to update systems more often due to tighter budgets and less staff.
- Wisconsin Statute Chapter 756 pertains to Juries. This would be the statute that would need changing to require county clerks to update the address list more than once a year.
- Milwaukee County's inclusivity rate went from 78.7% to 96.5% when the Wisconsin Identification cards were added to the jury list.
- Dane County's went from 84.6% to 92.3% when the Wisconsin Identification cards were added to the jury list.
- Juror summons to people of color increased by 6.31% points.
- The "no response" jurors are still a problem in Milwaukee County.
- The number of qualified jurors considered available that are people of color increased by 6.39% points.

Co – Chair Dallet commented the list for jurors that only included Wisconsin Driver's Licenses, and not Wisconsin State Identification registrations, was problematic.

Brandt added:

- Juror qualification survey response rate is similar to the United States Census which is around 60%.
- Wisconsin would need to amend WI Statute Chapter 756 to change the county clerks' procedure of updating the jury list from annual to quarterly (more than annually).

Co – Chair Dallet commented that young people do not view jury service as important, and we should strive to change that. William Snowden has a train the trainer type program. We need a way to distribute the program to schools, community groups, churches, and any group that is interested. If students get to be jurors, it could be an experience that might stay with them.

Subcommittee member Richards reported Milwaukee County Circuit Court is working with the faith-based group in Milwaukee called *Common Ground*. *Common Ground* talks to people about the importance of jury service within the criminal justice system.

Subcommittee member Triggiano reported Milwaukee County was helpful in community outreach with their public relations services. The public relations firm created a PowerPoint to reach young adults about jury service during the pandemic and suggested a social media campaign to reach more young adults.

Co – Chair Dallet recalled the video regarding “come to the courthouse; it’s safe” and suggested to use that as a model to use media to reach young people.

Subcommittee member Emily Lonergan suggested doing a social media video about real people sharing experiences and the value of having quality juries. The video allows the juror to share a personal message.

Co – Chair Dallet recalled the “it was fair; I was there” posters for Juror Appreciation Day. Co – Chair Dallet agreed with potential for juror video.

Mike Austin, DOJ Staff, reported Michael Blauw, Co – Chair of the Wisconsin Civics Learning Coalition, is interested in the jury topics and he will try to advance this among fellow social studies teachers. Austin reported there might be some webinar opportunities in the future, as well as a national conference in 2024.

Co – Chair Dallet commented that Wisconsin could have schools come to jury trials, because they already visit the State Supreme Court.

Subcommittee member Richards added the need to make an emotional connection between people and justice in society; making people sit through a slow jury trial won’t be as effective as meeting people where they are.

Ann Olson, Office of Court Operations – Wisconsin Court System, suggested to get high schoolers to do a contest for a video outreach campaign like the “no drinking and driving” campaign sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Olson added that they could work with Milwaukee County social studies teachers to work this out.

Co – Chair Dallet commented she liked this idea because it encourages youth engagement, and it would lower costs because you do not have to pay for the videos, and only for the media push.

Subcommittee member Triggiano is working on finding the PowerPoint mentioned earlier that is aimed to reach young adults about jury service.

Co – Chair Dallet would like to get messaging going for September 2024. This timeframe could align with the school year for student engagement projects.

Subcommittee member Richards requested more information about lack of participation in populations of color for jury service.

Co – Chair Dallet commented that there are “probably a bunch of factors,” about why people do not participate. One factor is definitely money because of taking off of work and expenses to travel to downtown Milwaukee. Much work is needed to implement a survey to research why people don’t respond.

Tyler Brandt, Office of Court Operations – Wisconsin Court System, commented that Waukesha County does a juror exit survey.

Co – Chair Dallet commented that a juror survey of why they do not respond and an exit survey is a larger conversation that the Subcommittee can continue another time because there are many ideas that need to be discussed.

#### **Juror Appreciation Day Ideas and Discussion**

Co – Chair Dallet asked DOJ Staff to distribute previous Juror Appreciation Day documents. The Subcommittee did not have time to review and DOJ Staff will keep on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.