



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

**Thursday, May 16, 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, Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Judge Jon Richards, Judge Emily Lonergan, Mary Triggiano, Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Michael Blauw, Judge Elliott Levine, Neal “Chip” Nielsen
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Shon Barnes, Rep. Evan Goyke, DA Blake Gross, Derek Mosley, Sheriff Tammy Starnard, Kelli Thompson, DA Kimberly Lawton, Jerome Dillard, Jane Graham-Jennings
DOJ Staff:	Lara Kenny, Ryan Anderson, Mike Austin, Phil Zell, Brad Kelly, Katie Snell, Sabrina Gentile, Mark Rather, Caleb Coughtry-Carpenter
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. Quorum was not present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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Motion to Approve October 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, and February 1, 2024, REIA Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Judge Jon Richards and seconded by Judge Carl Ashley to approve the October 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, and February 1, 2024, REIA Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Motion approved.

The vote was at 12:42 pm after quorum was reached: 11 Ayes, 0 No

**Wisconsin Civic Learning Coalition Overview and Discussion**

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**Michael Blauw, Wisconsin Civic Learning Coalition (WI CLC) Director and REIA member**

Michael Blauw reported the Civic Learning Coalition is a national organization and he is the director of the Wisconsin chapter. Judge Gwen Topping invited M. Blauw to be a member of the subcommittee because of his work at the WI CLC. M. Blauw used a PowerPoint for his presentation.

M. Blauw reported WI CLC is a relatively new organization that fosters citizens' roles in their community. WI CLC work includes public communication about the importance of civic learning, advocating to policy makers at all levels, curating of teaching resources, supporting high school voter registration, and listening and visioning sessions. WI CLC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. It provides information regarding elections, political issues, and learning resources.

WI CLC works with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to connect with local civics teachers and administrators regarding their civics learning needs.

The current learning topics are:

- Pressures on democracy (e.g., polarization, change in media landscape, low participation in voting, etc., declining trust in government)
- Flashpoints (e.g., January 6th insurrection, educational gag orders and censoring teachers, the upcoming presidential election, the Wisconsin gerrymandering case)

There is a National – Minimal Investment of federal dollars of \$0.05/pupil for civics compared to \$54/pupil for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

In Wisconsin there is a no pass, no graduation citizenship test requirement. The test is mostly multiple choice so not a high quality assessment. There is no stipulation on how many times the test can be taken or if it is an open book test.

The Wisconsin State Standards include a political science requirement. Civics and/or government course is not required for graduation.

DPI provides:

- support integration into other curriculum areas and provides high quality age-appropriate materials in elementary schools;
- updated scope and sequence and integration of civics into 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in middle schools; and,
- build out detail on standards and provide resources and recommendations for semester and yearlong courses in high schools.

DPI incorporates Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) Based Civics Fellows.

Statue changes in curriculum and requirements need to be approved by the legislature and are approved by DPI.

There was a Republican-sponsored bill that related to more accurate civics/government education requirements that did not go through due to lack of bipartisan support.

There is very little education regarding jury service. Not many organizations invest strongly in educating the public on the importance of jury service. Several state constitutions include civic

and/or government education requirements but not all. The organization *Street Law* might have some jury education components and resources.

Justice Dallet commented that Wisconsin is struggling to get juries that are diverse due to the lack of response to jury summons.

M. Blauw commented that we need to focus on how civic engagement is relevant to students' lives, and how it needs to be accessible and engaging. This is an ongoing effort and discussions will continue.

At the end of his presentation, M. Blauw shared the [WI CLC website](#) and [DPI's Wisconsin Civics Fellows Network website](#).

### **Juror Project K – 12 Lesson Plan and Community Presentations Updates**

Judge Jon Richards reported that Milwaukee has a growing group of organizations interested in jury diversity. The group Black Leaders Organizing for Change (BLOC) is working to increase pay for jurors. Common Ground, a faith-based organization, sponsored a listening session in late April regarding people's attitudes towards, and obstacles to, serving on jury duty.

Judge Richards stated the groups will continue to host listening sessions and increase attendance and engagement of stakeholders.

Justice Dallet commented that the Subcommittee is already familiar with obstacles to jury duty. Judge Richards agreed, and noted the groups are still doing the work towards community engagement.

### **Juror Appreciation Day and Juror Pay Discussion**

Tyler Brandt, State Courts Agency Partner, reported most counties indicated the courts primarily do minor efforts, but the consensus is that juror pay is a primary obstacle. Most courts recognize that counties don't have sufficient funds to enact change there, but most agree it's needed.

Subcommittee members discussed the various amounts of daily rates and reimbursements for jury duty participants.

DOJ Staff shared links on juror compensation.

- Juror Compensation in the United States [https://www.ncsc-jurystudies.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/76173/Juror-Compensation.pdf](https://www.ncsc-jurystudies.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/76173/Juror-Compensation.pdf)
- Article by National Center for Courts, *Following NCSC report, six states increase juror pay* <https://www.ncsc.org/newsroom/at-the-center/2023/following-ncsc-report,-six-states-increase-juror-pay>

**Public Comment**

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There was no public comment.

**Adjourn**

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The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.