



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

Thursday, February 12, 2026 // 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs Justice Rebecca Dallet and Judge Jon Richards

Subcommittee Members Present:	Justice Rebecca Dallet, Ashley Billig, Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Judge Jon Richards, Judge Elliott Levine, Jane Graham-Jennings, Judge Emily Lonergan, Jerome Dillard, Judge Carl Ashley, Kent Lovern, Michael Blauw, Jennifer Bias, Senator LaTonya Johnson
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	Kelli Thompson, Milwaukee City Attorney Evan Goyke, Neal “Chip” Nielsen, Mary Triggiano
DOJ Staff:	Lara Kenny, Ryan Anderson, Sabrina Gentile, Mike Austin, Katie Snell, Brittney Felton, Brad Kelly
Others:	Tyler Brandt, Ann Olson, Casey Steinau, Steve Knudson, Rhonda Frank-Loron

Welcome and Opening Comments

Subcommittee Co–Chair Justice Dallet welcomed members to the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve REIA Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for December 4 and August 7, 2025. Motion was made by Judge Elliott Levine and seconded by Judge Carl Ashley to approve the minutes REIA Subcommittee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Inclusive Communications Workgroup

Judge Richards reported they had a meeting at end of January to expand this committee’s work regarding how the criminal justice system communicates with people who are neurodivergent, shifting to a broader approach to include all communication challenges. Members working on this effort include Judge Levine, Jennifer Bias, and Mary Triggiano. At that previous meeting, Michele Lavigne spoke with subcommittee members about best practices for communicating with individuals with communication challenges. Lavigne is an Emeritus Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Judge Levine stated that this process started with simply trying to update plea colloquies and procedures, and this evolved into improving all communication with the public, ensuring thorough understanding of court processes, especially for neurodivergent individuals and those with communication challenges (e.g., children, traumatized victims, and individuals struggling

with mental/behavioral health issues, learning/development disabilities, or communication differences).

Judge Ashley expressed his support for this effort because it's important that everyone who is involved in the criminal justice system understands what is happening around them, regardless of whether they are a defendant, witness, or victim.

Justice Dallet added that a lot of court processes are done a certain way purely because of historical precedent, so there's no reason for this subcommittee not to try to improve these procedures to better serve community members of all education levels and all levels of ability.

Jury Diversity Updates: Juror Appreciation Week, Juror Pay, PSA Discussion

Judge Richards reported that Jen Bias has joined working group with Common Ground (CG) in their efforts to promote juror diversity and participation. CG has developed a proposal involving (1) public awareness campaign targeted at black communities and the importance of jury service (to address racial disparities on juries) and (2) work towards increasing juror pay. The working group met with Sen Johnson on Monday.

Jennifer Bias reported that the State Public Defender's Office is supportive in moving forward with juror pay initiatives to be implemented in statewide budgets and added that increasing juror pay through policy is important for improving juror representation and fairness in Wisconsin's criminal justice system.

Justice Dallet asked if we ever shared the San Francisco video that demonstrates how juror pay improves juror turnout and representation, and Bias said she thought so.

Tyler Brandt added that they can purchase smaller trinkets (< \$5,000) to promote juror participation/appreciation and suggested collaborating with sports teams and other prominent Wisconsin organizations to promote material distribution and spread messaging regarding juror appreciation. He also suggested factoring in distribution strategies across the state.

When Justice Dallet asked if these trinkets and/or their distribution are valuable, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink opined that it relies on pairing the distribution with effective messaging and obtaining local buy-in and media coverage. Justice Dallet and Matoska-Mentink concluded that we could explore collaborating with local clerks, bar associations, and other organizations to promote juror appreciation month in September in order to hopefully increase juror participation year-round. Ann Olsen volunteered to reach out to clerks regarding juror appreciation month involvement.

Driver's License Failure to Pay Forfeiture Suspensions Update

Mike Austin updated subcommittee members that the CJCC at their December meeting supported the subcommittee's recommendation to eliminate driver's license suspensions due to the failure to pay forfeitures. He shared that there was no opposition at the meeting and law enforcement on the CJCC was particularly supportive of a legislative change. The next steps will be communicating that support to the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Evers. That will

be done through a letter that is forthcoming from the CJCC Co-Chairs AG Kaul and Secretary Hoy.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn was made by Judge Ashley and seconded by Judge Richards.

The motion passed on a voice vote, and meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

2026 Meetings

April 2

August 6

October 8

December 3