



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

**Thursday, December 4, 2025 // 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
Subcommittee Members Not Present:	SPD Jennifer Bias, Kelli Thompson, Milwaukee City Attorney Evan Goyke, Neal “Chip” Nielsen, Michael Blauw, Mary Triggiano, Judge Carl Ashley, Jerome Dillard, Sheriff Tammy Starnard
DOJ Staff:	Ryan Anderson, Sabrina Gentile, Mike Austin, Katie Snell
Others:	Tyler Brandt, Anya Crossland, Rhonda Frank-Loron, Harm Venhuizen, Steven Knudson, Ann Olson

### Welcome and Opening Comments

Subcommittee Co–Chair Justice Rebecca Dallet welcomed members to the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Quorum was not present.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Due to no quorum, approval of meeting minutes from August 7, 2025, is tabled until the next REIA Subcommittee Meeting.

### Neurodiverse Defendants Discussion

Judge Jon Richards stated they created an inclusive communication working group to work on policies for people with different needs in the courts system (e.g., autism). The workgroup has met twice so far, with the next meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025. Jennifer Bias and Mary Triggiano will be joining the working group.

Judge Levine added that they should involve some non-attorneys in the workgroup, specifically people in the disability rights communities. He discussed using plain language for plea colloquies, that they used artificial intelligence (AI) to help translate plea colloquies to plain language, and Emily Lagratta a justice reform consultant is assisting. They are also working to adapt these processes to be more trauma-informed and accessible, using language that could be understood at a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade academic level.

Judge Richards suggested using other states as resources while we create materials and establish appropriate procedures for Wisconsin and establish appropriate procedures for how to identify people who may need additional support in understanding court processes.

Judge Levine added that Special Materials (SM 28, 30, 32), where colloquies are located, have not been updated in a while other than small revisions. Judge Richards expressed that he'd like to have something presentable in the next six months, before the next conference, and that he thinks this is an attainable goal. The subcommittee agrees that the goal is to make the standard court processes as inclusive and accessible as possible to ensure everyone understands the processes they're experiencing. This is important due to different individual learning or cognitive differences and because some people become too intimidated or overwhelmed to ask for help or repetitions.

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

Judge Richards updated the subcommittee that they are waiting for the new state budget and priority cycle, expected for February 2026. The effort to advance juror diversity and civil participation is still being pushed by Common Ground, a community-oriented organization. Common Ground is working with a public relations firm to rebrand jury service and is exploring philanthropy to fund juror pay in Milwaukee County. Judge Richards added that we may be able to tie this effort into juror appreciation week.

Justice Dallet noted that it's good to have local organizations working to fund initiatives like this to supplement the governmental agencies' funding sources that aren't always available. She noted that we've tried this work in past years, but it got pushed around and deprioritized in the budget. In the meantime, we can gather information about what other states do to encourage participation and awareness of jury service. She suggested an annual recorded media campaign, potentially using a local public figure to promote jury participation.

When Judge Richards asked if we are still seeking to have the state cover juror pay instead of counties, Justice Dallet opined that the topic probably got tabled due to the timing of budgets.

Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink stated that changing the funding structure would be a big lift, and while having consistency across the state for juror pays and other fees would be great, it would require change in state statute. We can leave that funding at the county level and hope all counties establish consistent increases in juror pay statewide. She also added that it is hard to determine other reasons as to why jurors don't appear when they do not complete follow-up surveys.

When Judge Richards asked if we can check with the Wisconsin counties who have already raised juror pay to see any changes in their juror turnout, Justice Dallet replied that it's hard to compare different counties. Dallet suggested having a public speaker discuss and promote the benefits of higher juror pay because it is backed by evidence that more diverse juries create fairer results.

Justice Dallet asked what people are planning for juror appreciation week, and Ann Olson responded that in the past there was a questionnaire about juror appreciation activities, and she advised that, in the past, there was a wide range of jury promotional materials from publications, T-shirts, tokens, banners, coffee/treats, etc. The main barrier to juror appreciation campaigns is a lack of funding. That previous campaign used customizable templates and order

forms so that counties could make and purchase what they want. That funding came from the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court's budget, but that funding fell away over time.

#### **Driver's License Failure to Pay Forfeiture Suspensions Update**

At the full CJCC meeting next week, Mike Austin and Susan Lund are scheduled to present this issue in hopes that the CJCC will take it to the legislature to consider policy change on failure to pay forfeitures and driver's license suspensions. Justice Dallet suggested that we could also present this issue to judges next year.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Adjourn**

With no quorum present, meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 12, 2026.