

**Task Force on Countering Disinformation  
State Courts Building, Phoenix  
Meeting Minutes: June 16, 2021**

**Members attending** (remote unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person), Shelly Bacon, Kate Merolo (proxy for Fredric Bellamy), Jessica Fotinos; Victoria Stratton (proxy for Dawn Gilpin), Eduard Goodman, Patience Huntwork, Hon. Todd Lang, Krisanne LoGalbo, Scott Ruston, Alexis Allen (proxy for Deborah Schaefer).

**Absent:** Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, Hon. David Fuller, Joe Hengemuehler

**Guests:** Public members: Lori Ford

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff:** Alicia Moffatt

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

The Chair welcomed members and made administrative comments. Alexis Allen was introduced, proxy for member Deborah Schaefer. The Chair updated the task force on progress with implementing task force recommendations. A disinformation session is tentatively scheduled for the justice of the peace conference in September. The task force's proposals to amend two sections of the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) are now posted on the ACJA forum online. The ACJA sections would conform the language for court personnel and elected clerks to what the task force submitted as a rule petition change for judges. The chair will present the sections at supreme court committees before presenting to the Arizona Judicial Council for approval in October. The supreme court will act on the rule petition in August.

2. Approval of minutes. The Chair called for corrections to the May 19, 2021 meeting minutes. No corrections were offered.

Motion: A member moved to approve the May 19, 2021 minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. CDTF: 2021-13

3. Workgroup Reports. The members provided updates on workgroup progress.

Workgroup 1: Lead, Debi Schaefer. The chair provided the update. The workgroup conducted the social media and court public information officer survey, ending June 11. Because the survey targeted all courts, clerk's offices, and probation departments and only 73 responses were received, the survey link will remain open for others to take the survey. The chair will encourage those attending the judicial conference to take the survey if their court or department has not yet done so. The chair presented the initial summary results of the two substantive questions: whether courts can post a message on their own website or social media and whether they can post a message on their city, town, or county website or social media. Respondents indicated around 60% could do either, fewer than 10% could not, and the remainder indicating uncertainty. The workgroup will review the responses and report back to the task force.

The workgroup is drafting reference information for courts wanting to create a social media presence. When approved by the task force, the information will be made available on the task force webpage, with graphics and hyperlinks, and may be available in printable format. The workgroup suggests including a logo or title to make it clear the recommendations are from the task force. The draft version includes the following sections:

1. Why should courts establish social media accounts (from 10/1/20 Task Force Report)
2. What is recommended (from 10/1/20 Task Force Report)
3. Verified Accounts
4. What you will need, including examples of actual handles
5. Tutorials
6. Before using social media accounts

Workgroup 2: Lead, Krisanne LoGalbo. The workgroup is developing two documents for the public. One is a business card-sized document with a QR code that would link the user to the task force webpage where information on disinformation and resources would be provided. The other is a full size single-page document about media literacy and avoiding disinformation. Both are intended to be translated in Spanish on the opposite side of the document. These materials are envisioned as give-away resources at public libraries, law libraries, and other public spaces.

After hearing the remaining workgroup reports, the task force members returned to these two documents for input and edits. The content and layout suggestions that were discussed will be made by the workgroup and resent to the members for further review and edits, focusing on readability and creating interest.

The workgroup continues its review and development of a disinformation playbook, which will serve as a guide to Arizona courts with resources for identifying and responding to disinformation.

Workgroup 3: Lead, Chair Aaron Nash. The chair presented the task force-approved verification language that courts can use on their forms and orders to various groups of clerks, judges, and court administrators. This recommendation is complete.

The workgroup is compiling branding information onto a SharePoint site. Sample logos, seals, and other information will be available for the AOC to share with court personnel. Design and specifics are still being drafted.

Workgroup 4: The Chair provided the update. Task force members reviewed a mock-up of a potential redesign of the Community Outreach and Education website. The design uses a combination of tiles and graphics and has potential for court personnel to register as presenters and for the community to register for presentations. Options are available to post recorded content, to link to existing content, to track presentations and more. As the process develops, the website options will adapt as available.

Presentation and material content review and design are still in progress. Plans include linking to outside, nonpartisan resources like iCivics and CivicsNow, court-affiliated resources like the state bar foundation, and other public domain resources like state and federal courts. Workgroup members continue searching for appropriate content and task force members are encouraged to do the same.

The chair presented the task force-approved on-hold message to clerks, judges, and court administrators at the same time the task force-approved court forms verification language was provided. This recommendation is complete.

Workgroup 5: Lead, Jessica Fotinos. The workgroup reviewed the Rapid Response Team (RRT) concept following discussions with the California Judges Association. As president-elect of the Arizona Judges Association (AJA), Judge Astrowsky is confident the AJA will move forward with the RRT ideas for Arizona.

The workgroup is progressing on guidance showing the steps for reporting or flagging content on individual platforms for review as misinformation or disinformation under the platforms' terms of use and standards. The materials are taken directly from the individual platforms' websites and are being compiled as an at-a-glance resource and as a more in-depth resource, all from publicly available online content. The steps for reporting content do not mean the content will be removed, only that it has been submitted for the platform's review. Individual platforms determine whether content violates the platforms' standards. The workgroup continues developing content and layout and anticipates having information for task force review in July or August. The workgroup's compilation of Arizona media outlets is ongoing, including a quick contact guide for court PIOs on how to reach traditional media when needed or helpful.

Task force members discussed the potential for providing examples of disinformation against judges as something the public could use as a reference point, clarifying opinion from disinformation. Patience Huntwork will research if there are examples available that are also appropriate for a public audience or that could be edited for a public audience, such as redacting vulgarities, racial slurs, graphic content and the like. Members discussed wanting examples that respect opinions and advocacy for court improvements and that focus on disinformation—defined as comments that advocate against the concept of a judicial branch or that intend to sow discord without regard for court improvements.

#### 4. Liaison updates.

Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS)

<http://acssaz.org/>:

This item was tabled during the May meeting. The chair updated the task force on May and June 2021 issues:

- In May the chair provided the ACSS with a slide deck about Tribal Law from a webinar that was hosted by AZCourtHelp. ACSS members had earlier requested materials on that area of the law.
- The Arizona Department of Education (ADOE) is hosting an in-person conference on October 23, 2021 titled, "Destination Democracy: Social Studies in the Driver's Seat." The chair will report back when a location is determined and with information on whether attendance is open to those outside of certified educators.
- Reminder: ADOE is hosting webinars on July 6, 2021. Programming includes the topics of civil liberties and elections, using U.S. Supreme Court cases to inform the discussion. Registration information is available through the chair.

Task force input for the liaison's follow-up:

- None.

Civic Education Community Engagement Program (CE2)

<https://www.azed.gov/civicengagement>:

The CE2 group has not scheduled a next meeting. Their next event will be the October conference noted above.

5. Call to the public. The Chair made a call to the public and Lori Ford addressed the task force.

6. Roadmap. The next Task Force meeting will be July 21, 2021. The posted meeting information will note if there is an in-person option in addition to virtual attendance.

7. Good of the Order and adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 9:30 - Noon.

Arizona State Courts Building and Virtual

1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Link for remote audio/video attendance to be provided