

**Task Force on Countering Disinformation  
State Courts Building, Phoenix  
Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2021**

**Members attending** (remote unless otherwise noted): Aaron Nash (Chair) (in person); Fredric Bellamy; Jessica Fotinos; Joe Hengemuehler; Krisanne LoGalbo; Nancy Rodriguez (proxy for Deborah Schaefer).

**Absent:** Hon. Bradley Astrowsky, Shelly Bacon, David Fuller, Dawn Gilpin, Eduard Goodman, Patience Huntwork, Hon. Todd Lang, Scott Ruston.

**Guests:** Public members: Ryan Boyd, Lori Ford, and Mindy – no last name provided.

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff:** Terrie Rodriguez

1. Call to order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

The Chair welcomed members and made administrative comments. The Chair updated the task force on progress with implementing task force recommendations. The task force will prepare a concluding report of its efforts for the chief justice and AOC. Members should anticipate August, September, and October to be working meetings where ideas and items are presented and improved. The concluding report is targeted for review and input during the November meeting, with December reserved for final items and the completion of the task force's term.

2. Approval of minutes. Tabled. The June 16, 2021 draft meeting minutes were not posted with the July meeting materials. June and July draft minutes will be on the August agenda for approval.

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

Workgroup 5: Lead, Jessica Fotinos. The Chair updated the members on the disinformation breakout session at the Judicial Conference in June. Suzanne Spaulding provided an overview on disinformation and the justice system, followed by the Chair's presentation on social media and community outreach. The session was well received, with some judges volunteering to help in task force efforts and others suggesting the topic would be helpful as a plenary at a future conference.

The Chair provided an update on the Rapid Response Team concept (RRT). Member Judge Astrowsky confirmed earlier that the Arizona Judges Association will follow-up on the RRT. He will continue to reach out to the team in California and with others as they are identified. The Chair connected Judge Astrowsky by email with a retired Arizona judge who offered to assist with RRT issues.

The Chair connected with local attorney Paul McGoldrick who is the president of the Arizona chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL). Mr. McGoldrick is also a member of the Arizona chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). ACTL and ABOTA have online resources like white papers on promoting a fair and impartial judiciary. Mr.

McGoldrick agreed to be a liaison to the task force and the RRT throughout the task force's term in 2021.

Jessica Fotinos reported that the workgroup is working on the RRT, a list of social media platforms' practices for reporting disinformation, a list of local and national media contacts court public information officers or designees can contact, and technology options for court to identify judicial disinformation.

Fred Bellamy reported that there remains no off-the-shelf technology that courts could access or afford. There is some artificial intelligence-assisted enterprise-level technology on the market, but nothing suitable to courts. Research for potential products is ongoing.

Workgroup 1: Lead, Debi Schaefer. The chair provided the update. In addition to the judicial conference report given as part of Workgroup 5's report, the Chair mentioned that the attendees received information about Workgroup 1's survey on court web presence, social media, and public information designees. The survey will be referenced in the task force's final report. Disinformation and the task force's efforts will be presented in a plenary session at the Justice of the Peace conference in September. Alicia Moffatt will oversee using the survey responses to compile a PIO contact list. That list could be used for AOC news releases and to communicate statewide issues to the courts more effectively.

The workgroup's "how-to" guide for setting up social media accounts is being formatted, including adding visuals. Members provided feedback on the draft that was presented, and the workgroup will continue to edit.

The workgroup will also develop language for the AOC to consider the next time Administrative Order 2017-79 is updated, replaced or repealed. That Order addresses presiding judges' authority and the recommendation will be to include authority to designate staff for court PIO functions. Conforming language will be recommended for Orders that apply to the authority of Justices of the Peace and Clerks of Superior Court.

Workgroup 2: Lead, Krisanne LoGalbo, who presented the workgroup's disinformation one-pager, designed for public use at libraries, law libraries, and other public places. The document is designed to be printed with English on one side and a Spanish translation on the other. The document was presented in vertical and horizontal options with the same content. The design includes content in black, blue, and white, intended to make it easier to print anywhere, to avoid issues with color blindness, and to be able to be reproduced with minimal blurring over time.

Members provided feedback on the draft that was presented, and the workgroup will continue to edit. A member suggested that when the task force winds down it would be helpful to post the document in a prominent place on the AOC website, such as the main page rotator in addition to the task force or community outreach pages.

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. The playbook is being developed as a quick reference guide to be used when needed, as opposed to a training or academic guide with dense history and background resources.

Workgroup 3: Lead, Chair Aaron Nash. The Chair noted that the recommendation on branding court information has been slow moving. The latest development is general consensus

that materials produced by the task force should include consistent language that the materials are recommendations from the task force.

Workgroup 4: The Chair provided the update. Workgroup members identified government, nonprofit, and other non-partisan public domain resources that can be shared with the public. The AOC will move forward with updating the Our Courts Arizona webpage with the Community Outreach and Education draft design the members reviewed at the June meeting and will incorporate those public domain materials on the redesigned page.

The AOC's Facebook page promotes the legal talks series made available to the public through AZCourtHelp. The AOC is looking into embedding its Facebook posts onto the outreach website to promote those sessions as well as the AOC's other outreach.

The Diversity, Equality, and Justice Commission (CODEJ) may be working on a project for "how to become a judge" in 2022. CODEJ's final product should be something the AOC can promote on the outreach page.

The AOC will continue working toward getting a volunteer registration page established on the AOC website. Even without "off the shelf" content that speakers can deliver, the AOC can start coordinating volunteers with speaking engagements and a library of content and resources can be added over time.

The Chair contacted a local attorney about posting her Tribal Law webinar on the AOC's outreach page. The attorney and the Bar Foundation/AZCourtHelp that presented the session, agreed the content could be posted for the public.

The workgroup noted that, to the extent possible, future content will be designed in ways to make the sessions qualify for court staff COJET requirements, for attorneys' CLE requirements, and for public school teachers' continuing education requirements.

The AOC posted Justice Bolick's radio segment about judges doing outreach to the AOC website.

#### 4. Liaison updates.

Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS)

<http://acssaz.org/>:

The ACSS did not meet in July. By the time of their August meeting, the Chair should have the Tribal Law recording mentioned above available for their review and use.

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.

During the workgroup reports Jessica Fotinos noted that she attended the Department of Education's July 6 webinars, which were well done. The presentation and materials were excellent and were prepared for school children of different ages. Education programs use primary sources, which means material or events from the time of the event being discussed. For example, news clippings that addressed the events when they happened, comments from someone who was involved in the event at the time, audio, letters, and other artifacts from the time of the event. Other programs are being developed.

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

6. Roadmap. The next Task Force meeting will be August 18, 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 11:01 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 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