

Innovation Committee

Indiana Office of Judicial Administration

Fuse East Conference Room - Capital Center South Tower

201 N. Illinois St., 2nd floor

August 9, 2023 - 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Chair, Justice Derek Molter, Hon. Molly Briles, Bernice Corley, Steve Creason, Mary DePrez, Chuck Dunlap, Adriana Figueroa, Justin Forkner, Hon. Kim Hall, Bill Henderson, Hon. Dustin Houchin, Chris Naylor, Hon. Jaime Oss, Bob Rath, Hon. Sam Scheele, Joe Skeel, Brad Skolnik
Guest: Christine Cordial (Indiana State Bar Association)
Staff: Leslie Dunn, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley, Amanda Wishin
2. **Scope and Role of the Innovation Committee:** Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Supreme Court provided a history of the Office of Judicial Administration and the organizational mentality that "position improvement is continuous." He explained the judicial branch committee structure and how the newly created Innovation Committee fits within the big picture, including collaboration with other committees, agencies, and external entities.
3. **Innovation in Regulating the Legal Profession:** Brad Skolnik, executive director of the Indiana Office of Admissions and Continuing Education, presented the national landscape on several novel ideas in regulation, particularly ideas regarding limited legal practitioners, legal education, alternative pathways to admission, and non-lawyer ownership of law firms. Joe Skeel provided insight into the ideas that the Indiana State Bar Association has been discussing – looking at limited legal practitioners (similar to nurse practitioner model) and broadening the ways to become a lawyer. Chuck Dunlap added that the legal navigator program also touches on these ideas because it provides legal information for people who would otherwise not have access.
4. **Brainstorm:** The Committee broke up into small groups to brainstorm ideas. The small groups shared the following as ideas for consideration:
 - a. Adding a 3rd year experiential component to law school to improve competency.
 - b. Non-profit law firms that use a sliding scale for payment that target the access to justice gap.
 - c. New/expanded ways for prosecutors to offer diversion programs.
 - d. Mediation in complicated criminal cases.
 - e. Adding payment to restitution online.
 - f. Providing more case management training in both civil and criminal cases for new judges.
 - g. Equalizing the rate of payment for prosecutors, public defenders, court staff.
 - h. Resources provided to counties such as a legal navigator, especially for family and protection order cases.
 - i. Issues related to the unauthorized practice of law, for example, non-attorney mediators.
 - j. Addressing legal deserts and attorney shortage.
 - k. How a judge should address medical questions – such as addiction and mental health – without medical training.

5. **Subcommittees:** Pursuant to Admin. Rule 4, the Committee can designate subcommittees. The current subcommittees are Technology and Online Dispute Resolution. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
6. **Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 1:00pm, virtual:** Staffing subcommittees will be discussed as well as Committee schedule for 2023 - 2024.

Innovation Initiative
Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
Virtual Meeting
October 11, 2023
Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Chair, Justice Derek Molter, Mary DePrez, Bob Rath, Adriana Figueroa, Brad Skolnik, Prof. William Henderson, Hon. Dustin Houchin, Judge Sam Scheele, Chuck Dunlap, Hon. Steve Creason, Judge Leanna Weissman, Christine Cordial
Staff: Amanda Wishin, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley, David Young
Guests: Judge Kim Bacon, Mag. Kathleen Belzeski, Judge Jennifer DeGroote
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the August 9, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. **Next step for August brainstorming ideas:** Justice Molter reported that ideas from the previous meeting will be triaged to the appropriate agencies or staff for their discussion.
4. **Midwest Summit on legal deserts:** Brad Skolnik reported on the Midwest Summit on Legal Deserts sponsored by CCJ/COSCA and attended by a contingency from Indiana including Justin Forkner and Bob Rath. NCSC created a [barriers to accessing legal services layered map for the states attending](#). Justin Forkner presented on models for ways for people to gain access to the bar, using the Purdue Global proposal as an example. Bob Rath mentioned that Victor Quintanilla's report [Accessing Justice with Zoom](#) also is now available.
5. **Discuss potential subcommittees:** The Committee is to respond if they would be interested in serving on one of these subcommittees or know someone who would be interested.
 - a. **Online dispute resolution:** Judge DeGroote, Judge Bacon, and Mag. Belzeski attended the meeting to share their experiences in the ODR pilot program using Modria from Tyler Technologies. The general lack of participation is an issue, but one of the reasons for that is that collection law firms already have a process in place. The Committee discussed getting the firms involved to increase participation. Prof. Bill Henderson shared his article, [Is access to justice a design problem? \(099\)](#) on British Columbia's experience with ODR. Prof. Henderson expressed interest in joining the ODR subcommittee.
 - b. **Technology:** The Committee briefly discussed what issues this subcommittee should address, such as artificial intelligence.

6. **Next meeting:** November 15, 2023. The Committee is asked to submit ideas of groups that should be brought in to discuss obstacles they are facing and/or innovative ideas.