

Innovation Initiative
Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
Fuse Center
February 14, 2024
Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Mag. Molly Briles, Judge Steve Creason, Mary DePrez, Chuck Dunlap, Justin Forkner, Judge Kim Hall, Prof. Bill Henderson, Bernice Corley, Chris Naylor, Judge Jaime Oss, Alexandria Hanauer Pittman, Bob Rath, Judge Sam Scheele, Joe Skeel, Brad Skolnik, Judge Leanna Weissman
Guests: Abbie Bush, John Floreancig, Jon Laramore, Scott Wylie, Megan Stewart, Jane Dall Wilson
Staff: Amanda Wishin, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley, Phyllisia Gant

2. **Justice Reform opportunities from the perspective of civil legal aid organizations:** Civil legal aid organizations presented various ideas for committee discussion. Justice Molter welcomed the Committee to reach out if they are interested in working on any projects discussed.
 - a. **Cell phones in courts** – Jon Laramore presented that unrepresented litigants need their cell phones to calendar the next hearing, make calls if they are running late or need a ride, and if they have evidence on their phone. The issues for the courts are security and impermissible recording.
 - b. **Swearing in new attorneys** – John Floreancig presented that the 5-6 weeks between bar passage and swearing in is frustrating to legal aid providers who need those new attorneys as soon as possible. Brad Skolnik stated that it is the policy of the Supreme Court that no applicants can be admitted until the date of the ceremony and once admitted they cannot participate in the ceremony, however, ACE is trying to move the ceremony up so that it is only 3 weeks after bar passage.
 - c. **Remote hearings** – John Floreancig presented that legal aid could help throughout the state with more efficiency if attorneys knew that they would not need to drive to hearings. He proposed that an attorney from legal aid would be considered “good cause shown” under Admin. Rule 14. Bernice Corley suggested that public defenders also fall under that exception.
 - d. **Text reminders** – Scott Wylie, aided by Janelle O'Malley, presented that sending text reminders of hearings increases appearance rates dramatically. Mr. Wylie suggested changing the appearance form so that it says, “cell phone” instead of just “phone number” to help collect more cell phone numbers. Mary DePrez noted that court staff can also track if the text message was received.
 - e. **Approval of forms** – Abbie Bush discussed the forms available at indianalegalhelp.org. She noted that the 150 Indiana Bar Foundation kiosks across the state direct people to the forms, which were all approved by the Coalition for Court Access. The issue is that some courts are not accepting the forms, rejected by instruction of the clerk or judge.

- f. **Eviction/ejection** – Jon Laramore presented this issue as a request for judicial education. Judges confuse the statutory framework for ejection and eviction. Either can be used in a residential eviction context, but some plaintiffs and judges are using the worst parts of each process for defendants.
3. **Next meeting:** March 13, 2024 (remote); May 8, 2024 (remote); June 12, 2024 (in person)
Note: the meeting of April 10, 2024 (in person) has been cancelled, as it overlaps with the annual Spring Judicial College presented by the Indiana Office of Court Services.

**Innovation Initiative
Minutes
Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
Via Zoom
March 13, 2024**

1. **Attendees:** Justice Derek Molter (chair), Mag. Molly Briles, Bernice Corley, Judge Steve Creason, Mary DePrez, Chuck Dunlap, Justin Forkner, Judge Kim Hall, Prof. Bill Henderson, Judge Dustin Houchin, Chris Naylor, Judge Jaime Oss, Alexandria Pittman, Bob Rath, Judge Sam Scheele, Joe Skeel, Brad Skolnik, Leanna Weissman.
Staff: Amanda Wishin, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley

2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting were approved.

3. **Proposal to partner with students in interdisciplinary project teams through IU Political and Civic Engagement (PACE) Program.** Professor Bill Henderson presented an applied research practicum that would include law students and undergraduate students observing a wide range of civil proceedings, performing intake for Indiana Legal Aid, and making connections with judges, lawyers and other stakeholders. The program would result in capstone presentation to a committee of the Indiana Supreme Court and turned into a final report by Indiana University faculty. The research would focus on a 7-county area – Brown, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Owen. Some information and statistics can be located currently on the Indiana Supreme Court's website at <https://publicaccess.courts.in.gov/ICOR/>. The Committee suggested that criminal proceedings also be included because of access to justice issues created by lack of attorneys. The Innovation Committee supports Prof. Henderson pursuing this project.

4. **Updates:**
 - **Artificial Intelligence.** Justin Forkner provided an overview: (1) National Courts and Sciences Institute is focused on how data science will intersect with evidence; their project will take 18 months. (2) NCSC Rapid Response, a 3 month project to provide interim guidance at a state level on how AI is being addressed: ethics, caselaw, and a [resource center on NCSC website](#). Justin will provide an update to the committee this summer.
 - **Text message reminders.** Janelle O'Malley provided an update on text message reminders. Leslie Dunn and Joseph Fischer are preparing a Wednesday message to judges to invite more counties to join the pilot to use text message reminders in family law cases.
 - **ODR subcommittee.** Janelle O'Malley reported that the subcommittee held their first meeting in March and will be examining the landscape of ODR across all case types. They have also asked some judges to participate in the ODR pilot focused on small claims.
 - **Swearing in new attorneys:** Justin Forkner reported that he is working on a rule amendment that would allow certified interns to practice their previously supervised work before they are sworn in.
 - **AR 14 on remote hearings.** Bob Rath reported that he has started discussions internally to look at the [interim rule AR 14](#).
 - **Cell phones in court.** Bob Rath reported that he will be working with Phyllisia Gant on a working group to create best practices for allowing litigants to bring in their cell phones.

- **Acceptance of IndianaLegalHelp.org forms.** Bob Rath will work with Indiana Legal Services' Abbie Bush on the analysis of requiring the forms to be accepted.

5. 2024 schedule: The April 10, 2024 meeting has been cancelled because it overlaps with the Spring Judicial College presented by the Indiana Office of Court Services

- May 8 (1-2 pm) – Zoom [**Note:** the meeting of May 8 has been cancelled, also, due to schedule conflicts. The next meeting will be June 12.]
- June 12 (1-3 pm) – Fuse East
- July 10 (1-2 pm) – Zoom
- Aug. 14 (1-2pm) – Zoom
- Oct. 9, 2024 (1-3pm) – Fuse East
- Dec. 11, 2024 (1-2pm) - Zoom.

Innovation Committee
Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
Fuse Center
June 12, 2024

1. **Attendees:** Hon. Derek Molter (Chair), Mag. Molly Briles, Judge Steve Creason, Mary DePrez, Prof. Bill Henderson, Judge Dustin Houchin, Michael Moore, Chris Naylor, Judge Jaime Oss, Alexandria Hanauer Pittman, Bob Rath, Judge Sam Scheele, Joe Skeel, Brad Skolnik, Judge Leanna Weissmann
Guests: Kamron Graham, John Grant, Prof. Angie Raymond, Matt Rust
Staff: Amanda Wishin, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley, Phyllisia Gant

2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting were approved.

3. **Legal services innovation through non-profit law firm**
Prof. Henderson described the unmet need for legal services in the United States and, specifically, in Indiana. Building on his extensive research in this area, Prof. Henderson has developed an idea for a non-profit law firm to provide services in high volume, at low cost, to people who would otherwise be unable to afford to hire an attorney. His invited guests provided additional information about the proposal.

Matt Rust described debt collection cases and the type of legal information and advice that can be most beneficial to debtors who cannot afford traditional legal representation. Oregon attorneys John Grant and Kamron Graham shared their experiences and lessons learned in establishing The Commons Law Center in Portland, which serves people of limited means in the Portland area.

4. **Update: proposal to partner with students in interdisciplinary project teams through IU Political and Civic Engagement (PACE) program**
Prof. Angie Raymond, IU Kelley School of Business, joined Prof. Henderson in updating the committee on a new course they developed for IU Bloomington students for the fall semester: *Applied Research Practicum: Indiana Legal Systems*.

The course is cross-listed in the catalogues of the Maurer School of Law and the Kelley School of Business and is designed for the Political and Civic Engagement (PACE) program, a certificate program through the College of Arts and Sciences that is recognized by many undergraduate degree programs at IU Bloomington.

Teams of student field workers will collect much of the data, in most cases by in-person visits to each county. Teams will be comprised of law students matched with undergraduate and graduate students in business and other disciplines. Research methods include interviews, focus groups, and dozens of hours of courtroom observation. The project will culminate in a report to the Indiana Supreme Court's Innovation Committee in the spring of 2025.

5. **Next meeting:** July 10, 2024 and August 14, 2024 (remote); October 9, 2024 (in person).



Innovation Committee

courts.in.gov/innovate

Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM – 2:00PM

LOCATION: REMOTE CALL VIA ZOOM

PREPARED BY: AMANDA WISHIN

Attendance

Committee Members: Mag. Molly Briles, Hon. Steve Creason, Chuck Dunlap, Justin Forkner, Hon. Kim Hall, Prof. Bill Henderson, Hon. Andrew Hopper, Michael Moore (as designee of Bernice Corley), Hon. Jaime Oss, Alexandria H. Pittman, Bob Rath, Hon. Stephen Scheele, Brad Skolnik, Hon. Leanna Weissmann

Staff: Leslie Dunn, Phyllisia Gant, Kate Mead, Janelle O'Malley, Amanda Wishin

Minutes

The June 12, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Project Updates and Discussion

ODR Subcommittee

Janelle O'Malley updated the Committee on the progress of the ODR subcommittee – reviewing current pilots and reviewing what other states are doing. The subcommittee will finish their review in August and then draft a report summarizing their findings.

Family Law Taskforce

Leslie Dunn reviewed the sessions held at the joint juvenile and family law conference in June. The conference itself was a recommendation of the taskforce and the sessions discussed various initiatives of the taskforce – informal family law trials, triage, orders in the Domestic Relations Benchbook,

trauma informed care, online financial declaration tool, guardian ad litem guidelines and directory. The Board of Directors will vote on the guardian ad litem guidelines at their September meeting, and the hope is to have them in place for January 1, 2025. Leslie mentioned that legal information v. legal advice guide available at <https://www.in.gov/courts/publications/legal-info-guide/>. Janelle provided an update on the text message reminders in family law cases. Since October, 2022, 25,000 reminders have been sent to 6,300 phone numbers.

Requests of Civil Legal Aid Partners

In response to the request that all indianalegalhelp.org forms be accepted, Bob Rath informed the Committee that an amendment to Trial Rule 82 (forms) has been posted for public comment on the website at <https://www.in.gov/courts/files/rules-proposed-2024-july-tr82.pdf>. Judge Creason expressed concern about receiving older versions of the forms that are not necessarily correct law. Mag. Briles suggested adding "current" to mitigate this issue:

Subject to Trial Rule 88, the clerk or court must accept for filing a document prepared and properly completed using a **current** form approved by the Supreme Court or Coalition for Court Access.

Virtual Hearings

Bob Rath presented a brief data on civil hearings. Proceedings supplemental account for 15.1% of all hearings – over 212,00 proceedings supplemental for the year [note: originally presented at 22.4% and subsequently corrected]. Bob invited the Committee to reach out to him if they were interested in discussing virtual hearings for various hearing types.

Future Meetings

August 14, 2024 (remote); October 9, 2024 (in person).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Rath at 1:53pm.



Innovation Committee

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Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM – 2:00PM

LOCATION: REMOTE CALL VIA ZOOM

PREPARED BY: AMANDA WISHIN

Attendance

Committee Members: Justice Derek Molter, Mag. Molly Briles, Mary DePrez, Chuck Dunlap, Hon. Kim Hall, Hon. Andrew Hopper, Michael Moore (as designee of Bernice Corley), Chris Naylor, Hon. Jaime Oss, Alexandria H. Pittman, Bob Rath, Hon. Stephen Scheele, Hon. Leanna Weissmann

Staff: Chris Biehn, Leslie Dunn, Janelle O'Malley, Amanda Wishin

Minutes

The July 10, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Project Updates and Discussion

Research on substance abuse during pretrial supervision

Judge Hall introduced the issue by discussing the substance abuse issues that he is seeing in his rural county; he estimates 75% criminal defendants are charged with possession of heroin or meth. He has concerns about pretrial release and overdose once released.

Justice Services Deputy Director Chris Biehn discussed a 2-year pilot with George Mason on intentional light touch supervision in pretrial. With Starke County joining the pilot, there will be 12 counties participating. A needs assessment will map local service providers with the consideration of responsivity – how likely are they to be able to receive needed services. This takes into consideration issues like transportation.

Judge Hall would like to see a subcommittee on substance abuse. Michael Moore informed the Committee about a group using peer support and coaches – <https://mhai.net/forensic-services/integrated-reentry-and-correctional-support-iracs/> Brittany Kelly would be interested in assisting a new subcommittee. It was also suggested that this Committee have a liaison with the Pretrial Services Committee.

Update on Commission on Indiana's Legal Future

Judge Weissmann and Bob Rath provided an update that the interim report recommendations will be available soon for public comment. Judge Weissman talked about the Technology Applications Committee that looks at ways that technology can solve shortage, such as AI assistance in interpretation. Another suggestion was someone to assist with the tech in a courtroom. Allowing cell phones into courthouses is another issue that need to be addressed. Michael Moore noted that the Language Access Committee is working on interpreter rules and so someone should touch base with them about the AI recommendation.

Update on Admission and Discipline Rule 2.1

Bob notified the Committee that the recommendations brought by civil legal aid partners to close the gap between the time of a certified legal intern and being sworn in has been approved by the Court. The order was issued the end of June.

Future Meetings

October 9, 2024 (in person); December 11, 2024 (virtual)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Justice Molter at 1:35 p.m.



Innovation Committee

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Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM – 2:00PM

LOCATION: REMOTE CALL VIA ZOOM

PREPARED BY: AMANDA WISHIN

Attendance

Committee Members: Justice Derek Molter, Mag. Molly Briles, Hon. Steve Creason, Hon. Kim Hall, Bill Henderson, Hon. Andrew Hopper, Michael Moore (as designee of Bernice Corley), Hon. Jaime Oss, Alexandria H. Pittman, Bob Rath, Hon. Stephen Scheele, Hon. Leanna Weissmann

Guest: Amitav Thamba

Staff: Phyllisia Gant, Kate Mead, Amanda Wishin

Minutes

The August 14, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Leveraging AI for Efficient Court Operations and Public Transparency

Amitav Thamba, Chief Technology Officer of Marion Superior Court provided a demonstration:

- People can order a court transcript or recording online since 2016 through The RecordXchange.
- If a judge wants to review a transcript, the judge uses MyCourtRecord.ai. Since April 2024, each judge has a sign on and can search by word within a hearing.
- Marion County is part of an expedited mental health appeals pilot project. The pilot shortens the time for transcript preparation; a transcript that would take a person 9.5 hours to prepare, takes the program 26 minutes. In the transcript provided to the Court of Appeals, the audio and video are hyperlinked.

- Marion County is in the testing phase of Claude.ai, which has all of the benchbooks and court rules uploaded into the database. Judges can also upload hearing audio and ask Claude to summarize the hearing and apply the law to the hearing transcript. Amitav has built Claude into TheRecordXchange and judges only need to hit an “AI Assist” button. A committee is working on proper policy and framework for use of this technology with the hope it will be in place by November.

Update on IU Applied Research Practicum course

Prof. Bill Henderson provided an update on the course that he is teaching with Prof. Angela Raymond that has 8 law students and 17 undergrad students. The students will be going out to various counties and talking to judges, lawyers, township trustees, public librarians. Once the data is coming together, Prof. Henderson will bring it to the Committee for their review.

Update on interim recommendations of Commission on Indiana's Legal Future: Regulatory sandbox and non-profit law firm model

Bob Rath noted that the Supreme Court’s order on the Commission on Indiana’s Legal Future interim report assigned the Innovation Committee the creation of regulatory sandbox program parameters. As part of the regulatory sandbox, the Committee must also develop a non-profit law firm model pilot program. These parameters must be submitted to the Court for approval by March 1, 2025. Bob shared a link to [Legal Innovation After Reform: EVIDENCE FROM REGULATORY CHANGE](#). If anyone is interested in participating in the subcommittee, they are invited to reach out to Bob. The subcommittee will meet in the upcoming 2 months and provide an initial report to the Committee at the December 11 meeting.

Future Meeting

December 11, 2024 (virtual)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Justice Molter at 1:59 p.m.