JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF INDIANA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes
Indianapolis, Indiana
April 15, 2025

1. **Attendees:**

    a. **Members:** Robert Altice, Brian Bade, Craig Bobay, Murielle Bright, Jon Brown, Sam Cappas, Michael Christofeno, Marla Clark, MaryEllen Diekhoff (member and proxy for AmyMarie Travis), Aleksandra Dimitrijevic, Danielle Gaughan, Craig Goedde, Clayton Graham (member and as proxy for Jennifer Harrison), Frances Gull, Kelsey Hanlon, Elizabeth Hurley, Kristina Kantar, Clay Kellerman, Jillian Kratochvil, Jeryl Leach, Stephenie LeMay-Luken, Sally McLaughlin, Kristen McVey, Bradley Mohler, Jason Mount, Jennifer Newton, Jaime Oss, Lakshmi Reddy, Hunter Reece, Marc Rothenberg, Loretta Rush, Matt Sarber, Lori Schein, Gregory Smith, James Snyder, Adam Squiller, Richard Stalbrink, Stephanie Steele, Lisa Swaim, Heather Welch

    b. **Not in attendance:** Dale Arnett, Jennifer Harrison (Clayton Graham appointed as proxy), Dustin Houchin, Steve Kitts, Jason McVicker, AmyMarie Travis (MaryEllen Diekhoff appointed as proxy).

    c. **Guests:** Stephanie Campbell, Chris Goff, Derek Molter, David Najjar

    d. **Staff:** Jennifer Bauer, Vicki Davis, Mary DePrez, Kathryn Dolan, Leslie Dunn, Tom Felts, Justin Forkner, Michelle Goodman, Diane Mains, Catheryne Pully, Bob Rath, Jeff Wiese, Amanda Wishin, Josh Woodward.

2. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Chief Justice Loretta Rush welcomed the Board. She noted that she is still working with the legislature on the bill that will remove judicial officers; everyone needs to work together to address this issue. Chief Justice Rush also expressed gratitude for the good work that judicial officers are doing across the State and that she is proud to highlight their work at the State of the Judiciary.

3. **Minutes.** A motion was made by Judge Bob Altice and seconded by Judge Clayton Graham to approve the minutes from the meeting held December 12, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Court of Appeals report.** Chief Judge Bob Altice welcomed the newest member of the Court of Appeals, Judge Stephen (Sam) Scheele. He noted that the Court of Appeals has already completed 18 traveling oral arguments this spring, have more scheduled, and that they are currently booking oral arguments for the fall.

5. **Indiana Judges Association (IJA) report.** President, Senior Judge Heather Welch, reported that the legislature's sine die is on April 24th. She noted that the IJA lobbyists are still working on SB 324, regarding violent arrestees, and HB 1144, on the reallocation of judicial officers. Justice Goff noted that the Board of Directors is the governing body of the judicial branch and the Board should come up with a statewide solution to address the allocation of judicial resources.

6. **Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (ICJFCJ) report**. President, Judge Kelsey Hanlon, also reported on the legislative session. ICJFCJ approached this session in a way that was conciliatory, trying to get the legislators to understand the work of judicial officers. HB 1605 is a major CHINS bill, allows foster parent intervention, and limits the CHINS timeline, among many other things. They also worked on HB 1626, a bill that requires written findings in contested custody matters.

7. **Justice Reinvestment Advisory Counsel – Electronic Monitoring Report:** Staff attorney Michelle Goodman presented the electronic monitoring report to the Board as is required by statute. SB 218 will alter the report, removing the false location reporting and changing the deadline to May 1st.

8. **Court Alcohol & Drug Program Advisory Committee Rules:** Committee Chair, David Najjar, presented amendments to the Court Alcohol & Drug Program Rules and asked that the Board approve the changes. The changes are primarily related to the education requirements; the proposed rules also add instructions for closing a program and add requirements to inform clients about federal confidentiality. There weren't any public comments. He requested that the rules be implemented in 30 days. A motion to approve the rule changes was made by Judge Jon Brown, seconded by Judge Fran Gull, and approved unanimously.

9. **Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) report.** Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer, began by providing an update on the Commission on Indiana's Legal Future, which will continue until July 1, with some of the interim recommendations already being implemented. One of the recommendations is a public service scholarship which would have been funded if HB 1049 passed. He also stated that the Supreme Court's big budget asks are for INjail, problem-solving courts, and court security.

10. **Indiana Office of Court Service (IOCS) report**. Catheryne Pully, Executive Director, announced that the 2025 annual meeting is September 17-19 in Fort Wayne, and that the 2026 annual meeting is September 1-3 in French lick. She encouraged the Board to review their listing in the judicial directory and respond with any edits. Judges will receive an email about committee service on April 28.

11. **Court Technology report.** Mary DePrez, Executive Director, updated the Board that Court Technology is still working on the next release of Odyssey. She encouraged judges to fill out

the survey about their use of the Judges' Edition of Odyssey; the use might change because Court Tech is building an e-filing application.

12. **Legal regulatory pilot program:** Bob Rath, Chief Innovation Officer, and Justice Derek Molter, presented the legal regulatory pilot program which came from the Legal Futures interim recommendations. The Innovation Committee is exploring the idea of a regulatory sandbox that would relax regulations and allow for allied legal professionals and non-profit law firms with sliding scale fees. Mr. Rath stated that the Indiana State Bar Association is working on a parallel project and that this is only a framework for evaluating pilot projects.

13. **Other business:** Chief Justice Rush noted that the bar passage rate for February was 47%, but the five students from Purdue Global and the one LLM that took the bar passed. She also tasked the Strategic Planning Committee with working on a plan to equitably distribute judicial resources across the state.

14. **Future meetings:** Save the dates for the 2025 meetings:

    - Wednesday, September 17, 10:30 – Fort Wayne
    - Thursday, December 4, 4:00 - Carmel

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF INDIANA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes
Fort Wayne, Indiana
September 17, 2025

1. **Attendees:**
    a. **Members:** Robert Altice, Brian Bade, Drew Bloch, Craig Bobay, Murielle Bright, Jon Brown, Judi Calhoun, Sam Cappas, Michael Christofeno, Marla Clark, MaryEllen Diekhoff, Aleksandra Dimitrijevic, Danielle Gaughan, Craig Goedde, Clayton Graham, Frances Gull, Jennifer Harrison, Dustin Houchin, Elizabeth Hurley, Kristina Kantar, Steve Kitts, Jillian Kratochvil, Jeryl Leach, Stephenie LeMay-Luken, Sally McLaughlin, Kristen McVey, Jason McVicker, Bradley Mohler, Jason Mount, Jennifer Newton, Jaime Oss, Lakshmi Reddy, Hunter Reece, Marc Rothenberg, Loretta Rush, Matt Sarber (member and as proxy for Clay Kellerman), Lori Schein, Gregory Smith, James Snyder, Mark Spitzer, Adam Squiller, Richard Stalbrink, Stephanie Steele, Lisa Swaim, AmyMarie Travis.

    b. Not in attendance: Clay Kellerman (Matt Sarber proxy)

    c. Guests: Stephanie Campbell, Jon Cleary, Chris Goff, Mark Massa, Derek Molter, Geoffrey Slaughter

    d. Staff: Jennifer Bauer, Adam Clay, Vicki Davis, Mary DePrez, Kathryn Dolan, Leslie Dunn, Tom Felts, Justin Forkner, Michelle Goodman, Catheryne Pully, Bob Rath, Jeff Wiese, Amanda Wishin, Josh Woodward.

2. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Chief Justice Loretta Rush welcomed the Board. She informed the Board that due to budgetary restraints, it is unlikely there will be a salary adjustment next year. She also shared that court security grants will be available this year.

3. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Judge Jon Cleary and Judge Hunter Reece presented their idea to proactively deal with adding and subtracting courts, a new committee on judicial resources. This is prompted by this year's HEA 1144, which moved through the session without removing any courts until the last minutes. The proposal to create a committee was unanimously approved by the Strategic Planning Committee. The plan lays out membership to the committee, including a legislator at their request. This committee will be a unified group to look at possible changes with statute, rule, legislation, weighted case load study. Mark Spitzer, IJA president, noted that on July 1, 2025, IJA and Justin Forkner received a letter from Rep. Chris Jeter inviting the judiciary to prepare for upcoming legislative sessions. IJA will have a seat on the interim courts committee to be a part of that discussion, but they will be a non-voting member. There was a motion made to by Judge Jennifer Harrison to add a Marion County judge as a standing member and that it should be discussed by court versus by county. The proposed amendments were seconded by Judge Jon Brown. Judge

Michael Christofeno called for a vote, seconded by Judge Harrison. Three voted against the new committee proposal with no amendment. Volunteers for membership were encouraged to reach out to the Chief Justice.

4. **Minutes.** A motion was made by Judge Judi Calhoun and seconded by Judge Drew Bloch to approve the minutes from the meeting held April 15, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Court of Appeals report.** Chief Judge Bob Altice made a short report that the Court of Appeals is doing well.

6. **Indiana Judges Association (IJA) report.** President, Judge Mark Spitzer, made a short report that all is well with IJA.

7. **Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (ICJFCJ) report**. President, Judge Drew Bloch, also reported everything is going well. He noted that he has a weekly meeting with Rep. Chris Jeter.

8. **Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) report.** Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer, encouraged the Board members to attend the AI session tomorrow and review the proposal for AI use. He reminded the Board that judges are required to accept special judge appointments unless there is an ethical concern. He also announced that Terry Harrell is retiring September 24th. Court has appointed Ashley Hart as executive director of JLAP.

9. **Indiana Office of Court Service (IOCS) report**. Catheryne Pully, Executive Director, provided accomplishments from various divisions. She noted that there is a new GAL/CASA director, Melissa Cunnyngham, and that the Guardianship Oversight Taskforce has a final report due to the court on December 1st. The judicial officer directory will be mailed end of September. District meetings will occur April and May 2026, next year and the Annual Conference will be Sept. 2-4 in French Lick. Justice Services is making process improvements for certification, has 142 certified problem-solving courts, and is making youth justice related expansion beyond the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). There is a newly revamped Domestic Relations Benchbook on Incite. Supreme Court Services wrote 323 legal memos last years.

10. **Court Technology report.** Mary DePrez, Executive Director, provided a handout that lists all of the services that Court Tech provides and one about INjail, the new jail management system. E-filing will go live in December. She also noted that prosecutors have a system called secured public access and support for this is going away.

11. **Other business:** The Chief Justice closed by reminding the Board that district meetings will be in 2026. She also encouraged the Board to submit stories about good things that judicial officers are doing across the state.

12. **Next meeting:** The last meeting for 2025 is Thursday, December 4, 4:00 in Carmel.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF INDIANA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes
Carmel, Indiana
December 4, 2025

1. **Attendees:**

    a. **Members:** Robert Altice, Brian Bade, Drew Bloch, Craig Bobay (member and proxy for Fran Gull), Ellie Bright, Jonathan Brown, Judi Calhoun, Michael Christofeno, Danielle Gaughan, Craig Goedde, Kristina Kantar (member and as proxy for Sam Cappas and Aleksandra Dimitrijevic), Steve Kitts, Jillian Kratochvil, Stephenie LeMay-Luken, Sally McLaughlin, Kristen McVey, Jason McVicker, Jason Mount, Jennifer Newton, Jaime Oss, Hunter Reece (member and proxy for Jeryl Leach), Marc Rothenberg (member and as proxy for Clayton Graham), Loretta Rush, Matt Sarber, Lori Schein, Gregory Smith, Jim Snyder (member and proxy for Jennifer Harrison), Mark Spitzer, Richard Stalbrink, Stephanie Steele (member and proxy for Lakshmi Reddy), Lisa Swaim.

    b. Not in attendance: Sam Cappas (Kristina Kantar proxy), Marla Clark, MaryEllen Diekhoff, Aleksandra Dimitrijevic (Kristina Kantar proxy), Clayton Graham (Marc Rothenberg proxy), Fran Gull (Craig Bobay proxy), Jennifer Harrison (Jim Snyder proxy), Dustin Houchin, Elizabeth Hurley, Clay Kellerman, Jeryl Leach (Hunter Reece proxy), Bradley Mohler, Lakshmi Reddy (Stephanie Steele proxy), Adam Squiller AmyMarie Travis.

    c. Guests: Chris Goff, Justin McAdam, Derek Molter

    d. Staff: Jennifer Bauer, Adam Clay, Vicki Davis, Mary DePrez, Kathryn Dolan, Michelle Goodman, Catheryne Pully, Robert Rath, Jeff Wiese, Amanda Wishin, Josh Woodward.

2. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Chief Justice Loretta Rush welcomed the Board. She expressed security concerns for courts, having experienced security issues herself recently. If a judge has a security issue, they should reach out to Kathryn Dolan to help keep their information confidential. Chief Justice Rush also announced that Chief Administrative Officer Justin Forkner is leaving and that Aaron Hood will be interim CAO. She plans on talking to judicial leadership about what they would like to see in a new CAO. Chief Justice Rush acknowledged that county budgets are tight and the Court is looking for ways to supplement budgets. The State of the Judiciary is January 14th at 4:30 and the theme is justice in the heartland, which will focus on the breadth of what is being done around the state.

3. **Minutes.** The Chief Justice made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held September 17, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Court of Appeals report.** Chief Judge Robert Altice noted that this is his last meeting. Judge Elizabeth Tavitas will be new Chief Judge as of January 1, 2026. He stated that the Court of Appeals is finishing up traveling oral arguments for 2025 with only two left, but twenty are already scheduled for next year.

5. **Indiana Judges Association (IJA) report.** President, Judge Mark Spitzer, reported that legislative session has already started and IJA had their preliminary meeting with lobbyists this week. IJA leadership will meet with IOCS weekly to discuss the session. The lobbyists are anticipating sine die on Feb. 27. The Indiana Bail Review Commission published their final report which discusses statewide bail schedule and minimums for violent criminals. There will be a bill to support the constitutional amendment regarding bail. Judge Spitzer also presented to the Interim Committee for Courts and the Judiciary about the newly created Judicial Resources Committee.

6. **Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (ICJFCJ) report**. President, Judge Drew Bloch, echoed Judge Spitzer's comments about the legislative session. ICJFCJ will be following closely the family and juvenile law bills. He emphasized the importance of building and keeping connections with the legislators.

7. **Judicial Resources Committee.** Chair, Justice Chris Goff, reported that the Committee had their first meeting and the Committee webpage is published. It is staffed by Jeff Wiese, Michelle Goodman, Kathryn Dolan, and Adam Clay. He stated that the emphasis is doing everything possible to make sure that services are provided across the state, focusing on the needs instead of only budgetary concerns.

8. **Pretrial Services Committee.** Chair, Judge Mark Spitzer, presented proposed amendments to the Pretrial Rules related to amending the qualifications of the coordinator and who can perform the risk assessment. Motion made by Judge Marc Rothenberg to publish the rules for public comment, it was seconded by Judge Kristen McVey and approved unanimously.

9. **Probation Committee.** Judge Stephenie LeMay-Luken, on behalf of Chair Judge Mark Smith, presented revisions to the Intrastate Transfer of Probation Supervision Rules based on this year's HEA 1678 and general updates. Judge LeMay-Luken requested feedback on the proposed revisions, which will be presented for a vote at the April Board meeting.

10. **Innovation Committee.** Justice Molter provided an update on the Innovation Committee. The Technology Subcommittee led by Judge Weissmann is taking direction from the Indiana Legal Futures Commission to look at artificial intelligence that can assist judicial officers. The Innovation Committee is also digging into targeted pilot projects for allied legal professionals. The pilots will prioritize groups from legal aid and non-profits.

11. **Indiana Office of Court Service (IOCS) report**. Catheryne Pully, Executive Director, provided accomplishments from various divisions. The Adult Guardianship Taskforce Report was submitted to the courts. Most of the Court Reform Grants were related to court security. She noted that ICJI submitted their annual report and they have $44 million available from HB 1359. Judge Dana Kenworthy can assist with applying for that money. In the Legal Support Division, there will be a new ticketing process for submitting research questions so that questions are handled quickly and efficiently. She also noted that the Education Division is in talks with the Indiana State Bar Association about a conference of judges and lawyers in the spring of 2028.

12. **Court Technology report.** Mary DePrez, Executive Director, updated that the new e-filing system will be delayed and deployed in the spring. Court Tech continues to deploy INjail and 8 counties are live. Zoom has enhanced features, Zoom room and a Zoom schedule, that will be made available to the Zoom accounts. The Family Law Taskforce developed a dashboard to track juvenile and family cases in Marion County. The dashboard is now available to be used by other counties.

13. **Next meeting:** The 2026 meetings are scheduled for:
    - April 14 - 10:30am - Indianapolis
    - September 2 - 10:30am - French Lick
    - December 10 - 3:30pm - Carmel