

**Minutes of Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection**  
**Friday, January 22, 2010**  
**Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3**

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Patricia Avery called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Seven members appointed from the General Public were present: Patricia Avery, Bill Brown, Lorraine Cowart, Joan Miller, Jennifer Putman, Patrick Thompson, Ken Turner. Three members appointed from the General Public were absent: Aaron Ammons (excused), Brian Dolinar, Barbara Kessel (excused). Two Elected Officials were present: Justice & Social Services Committee Chair Matt Gladney, County Board Chair C. Pius Weibel. Two Court Officials were present: Judge Thomas Difanis, Court Administrator Roger Holland. One Court Official was excused: Public Defender Randy Rosenbaum.

**Approval of Agenda, Minutes (November 20, 2009):** The agenda was approved as distributed. Minutes of November 20, 2009 were approved as corrected.

**Announcements/Communications:** Miller announced that the February 11 meeting of the League of Women Voters will feature Aaron Ammons' presentation on the work of the CACJS; she invited all members to attend the noon meeting in Urbana City Council Chambers. Putman commented on the County Board's Burgess Humanitarian Award, which was presented at the January 2010 Martin Luther King celebration to Joan Miller in recognition of her work as co-organizer of the courtwatching program. Avery announced that the C-U Area Project is collecting items needed by Haitian earthquake survivors. Difanis announced that the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts conference that will convene February 1–4 will include a section devoted to topics of jury diversification.

**Vice-Chancellor's Office of Public Engagement Grant Proposal:** Members acknowledged with regret a communication from Kim Kranich, Co-Director of the Youth Media Workshop, confirming that the proposal submitted November 2 on behalf of the Circuit Court's partnership with the YMW had not been funded. Members emphasized appreciation for Kranich's worthy proposal, and are hopeful that it can be resubmitted in the future.

**Update on Use of Revised Juror Qualification Questionnaire:** Courts Administrator Holland reported that Kirk Bedwell is completing extensive computer reprogramming without the need to consult with the county's vendor in Texas. Thursday, April , is the expected launch date for use of the revised Juror Qualification Questionnaire. Holland stated that the county's judicial system vendor—Gary Dower of Tyler, Texas—is agreeable to speaking with the CACJS via telephone conference call.

**Old Business (Community Leaders Video; PSAs):** Members encouraged Ammons to identify community leaders who are well suited to deliver the lines of text spoken by Judge Ladd in the original orientation video, and to set taping dates and decide on taping

venues. Vice-Chair Avery asked Patrick Thompson to join Ammons and herself in a Media Relations Subcommittee that will write copy for 30- or 60-second public service announcements, and arrange for a studio and recording equipment. Avery suggested the media subcommittee draw on the video-production expertise of Dr. Will Patterson. Thompson favors a PSA that is serious in tone. Difanis suggested writing more than one ad, to allow for the production of a PSA that is catchy in a “hip, cool” sense as well as one that is serious. Brown requested that the Media Relations Subcommittee post its meeting dates to the entire CACJS.

**New Business:** The CACJS approved Avery, Putman, and Rosenbaum as members of the Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, and urged the group to contact Republican and Democratic state legislators—even if meeting dates occur after the February 11 deadline for introduction of new bills. Putman reported the following schedule for monthly meetings of the Jury Commission: January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, and May 19. Putman distributed excerpts from the personnel policies of local employers Human Kinetics, Inc., and Champaign County. She said these policies could be upheld as models to encourage private and public employers to include in workers’ benefits packages paid time off for jury duty. Putman distributed tables showing juror per diem and mileage reimbursement rates for eight Illinois counties similar in size to Champaign. Of the eight, only Peoria and Sangamon counties pay a higher per diem (\$15/day) than Champaign County (\$10/day).

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, February 19.

**Adjournment:** Vice-chair Avery adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Putman  
Recording Secretary