

MEETING MINUTES



Committee	Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)	
Date	Tuesday, July 8th 2025	
Time	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Location	Online	
Members Present	Christian Hansen, Christine Durham, Bridget Romano, Curtis Jensen, Lisa Watts Baskin, Mallory Bateman, Blair Hodson, Mike Smith, Tom Ross, Ally Isom, Mary Noonan, Sonya Martinez-Ortiz	
Members Excused	Gil A. Miller	
Guests		
Staff	Mary-Margaret Pingree, Madison Klein, Chris Russell, Jamie Nelson, Elliot Clark (AG)	
Agenda Item:	Announcements / May 13th, 2025 Minutes	Mary-Margaret Pingree Bridget Romano
Notes:	<p>Motion – Curtis motions to pass the May minutes, Blair seconds, passes unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction – Mary-Margaret introduces JPEC’s new commissioner, Mike Smith, a House appointee. • Bridget and Mary-Margaret announce JPEC’s recent IT Excellence Award for “Best Use of Data” and well as Madison Klein’s nomination for CCJJ’s Governor’s Award for Excellence • The November commission meeting was currently scheduled to fall on Veterans Day, Nov 11 meeting. The Commission agrees to move the meeting to Thursday, November 13th of that week to avoid the state holiday. • Mary-Margaret announces that the new review committee JPEC is forming to discuss evaluation reform has official appointments from the Courts, House, and Governor’s Office. Official appointments from the Senate are still pending. • After much review, the SRL pilot survey is set to launch mid-July. • Madison met with Senator Brammer to discuss possible evaluation updates and statute changes. 	
Agenda Item:	Interim Meetings Discussion Open Session	Madison Klein
Notes:	<p>Madison gives an overview of her Interim meeting with Senator Brammer and other judicial stakeholders.</p> <p>The four main discussion points were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What would JPEC like to change about current statute? The Commission discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Recommendations • Updated performance categories based on JPE 2.0 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility on survey scale <p>2. What are our biggest concerns/fears about legislative changes?</p> <p>3. What appellate evaluation changes does JPEC recommend?</p> <p>4. Provide a policy for incorporating judges “in the news” into the evaluation process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary-Margaret asked if JPEC should incorporate media coverage information in the performance evaluation? • 78a-12-204-7b Judicial Temperament is intended to address “avoidance of impropriety or the appearance of impropriety” <p>Commissioners indicated reluctance to incorporate media coverage as a majority discusses sentencing decisions which is outside of JPEC purview, but will further discuss implementing a policy to acknowledge major conduct issues, like an arrest or criminal conviction of a judge to ensure public awareness and transparency.</p>
Agenda Item:	Appellate Test & Evaluations JPE 2.0 Report Mary-Margaret Pingree Open Session
Notes:	<p>Mary-Margaret leads the discussion on how we can improve appellate evaluations and provides an overview of options including current evaluation tools other states use. These options included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Opinion Review • New Objective Measures • Cases Under Advisement Standards • Case Management Timeline Standards • Other measures recommended by NCSC like time to disposition, clearance rates, and age of active pending caseload <p>The Courts are currently working on reviewing new objective measures and determining what new measures will be possible with the data they have available.</p> <p>The Commission decided to try and pilot evaluating written opinion reviews this fall.</p>

Agenda Item:	JPE 2.0 Recommendations Chris Russell Open Session
Notes:	Chris gives an overview of other potential evaluation updates based on the new JPE 2.0 recommendations from IAALS. The main change recommended is updating our current survey categories.
Agenda Item:	Strategic Plan – Updates Mary-Margaret Pingree Open Session
Notes:	Mary-Margaret asks the Commission to approve of a few minor updates and changes to the Strategic plan put in place in 2023.

	Bridget motions to approve the updated strategic plan, Lisa seconds, passes unanimously.
Next Meeting	September 9th, 2025 9:00 a.m. – noon CCJJ Conference Room East Senate Building