



Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento
County Courthouse



Hall of Justice



Lorenzo Patiño Hall of Justice



Carol Miller Justice Center



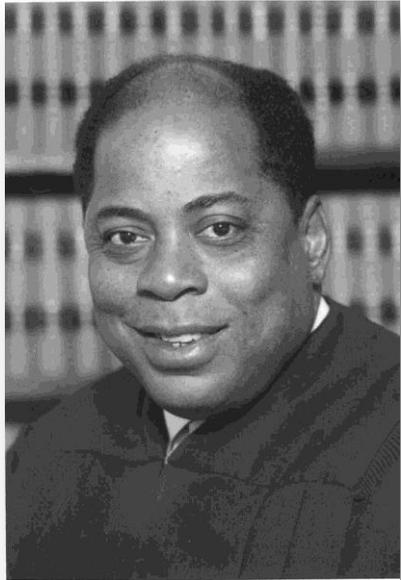
William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse



Juvenile Courthouse

Sacramento Superior Court's Community Engagement and Fairness Committee

Prepared by Judge Emily Vasquez and Judge Laurie Earl



Judge Barry Loncke (Ret.)



Presiding Judge Russ Hom

How Did Our Committee Start?

- The California Supreme Court delivered a powerful statement
- Judge Barry Loncke and Presiding Judge Russ Hom's Vision
- Crucial Conversation
- Powerful Discussion
- Comprehensive Approach

Purpose of Committee

The purpose of the Community Engagement & Fairness Committee is to eliminate inequities, disparities, and biases in our court system.

This committee recognizes that the lack of financial, personal, or systemic support as well as our own conscious and unconscious biases leads to inequities within our court system. This committee will strive to develop a greater awareness of the challenges faced by our court users and to cultivate a justice system that works fairly for everyone. This committee will cultivate inclusivity, diversity, racial representation, and raise self-awareness through education, crucial conversations, community outreach, and community collaboration.



Sacramento Superior Court's Community Engagement and Fairness Committee *Mission Statement*

The Sacramento Superior Court has established a new community outreach committee with the task of ensuring the elimination of bias within our courtrooms. Under the leadership of Judge Emily Vasquez and Judge Laurie Earl, the Sacramento Superior Court's Community Engagement and Fairness Committee ("Committee") will be composed of a diverse group of members of our community, including local community leaders, members of the bar, judiciary, and court administration. It will focus on maintaining a courtroom environment that provides an equitable system of justice to all who access our court services. The Committee will be responsible for sponsoring and supporting educational programs and critical conversations designed to recognize and eliminate bias.

We recognize that the lack of financial, personal, or systemic support as well as our own conscious and unconscious biases leads to inequities within our court system. We strive to develop a greater awareness of the challenges faced by our court users and to cultivate a justice system that works fairly for everyone.

By working with diverse members of our community to address these inequities, we commit to overcoming division and creating a path forward to ensure equal justice under the law for every single person who seeks it.

The Sacramento Superior Court supports the California Supreme Court's Statement on Equality and Inclusion which, in part, reads:

We state clearly and without equivocation that we condemn racism in all its forms: conscious, unconscious, institutional, structural, historic, and continuing. We say this as persons who believe all members of humanity deserve equal respect and dignity; as citizens committed to building a more perfect Union; and as leaders of an institution whose fundamental mission is to ensure equal justice under the law for every single person.



Membership



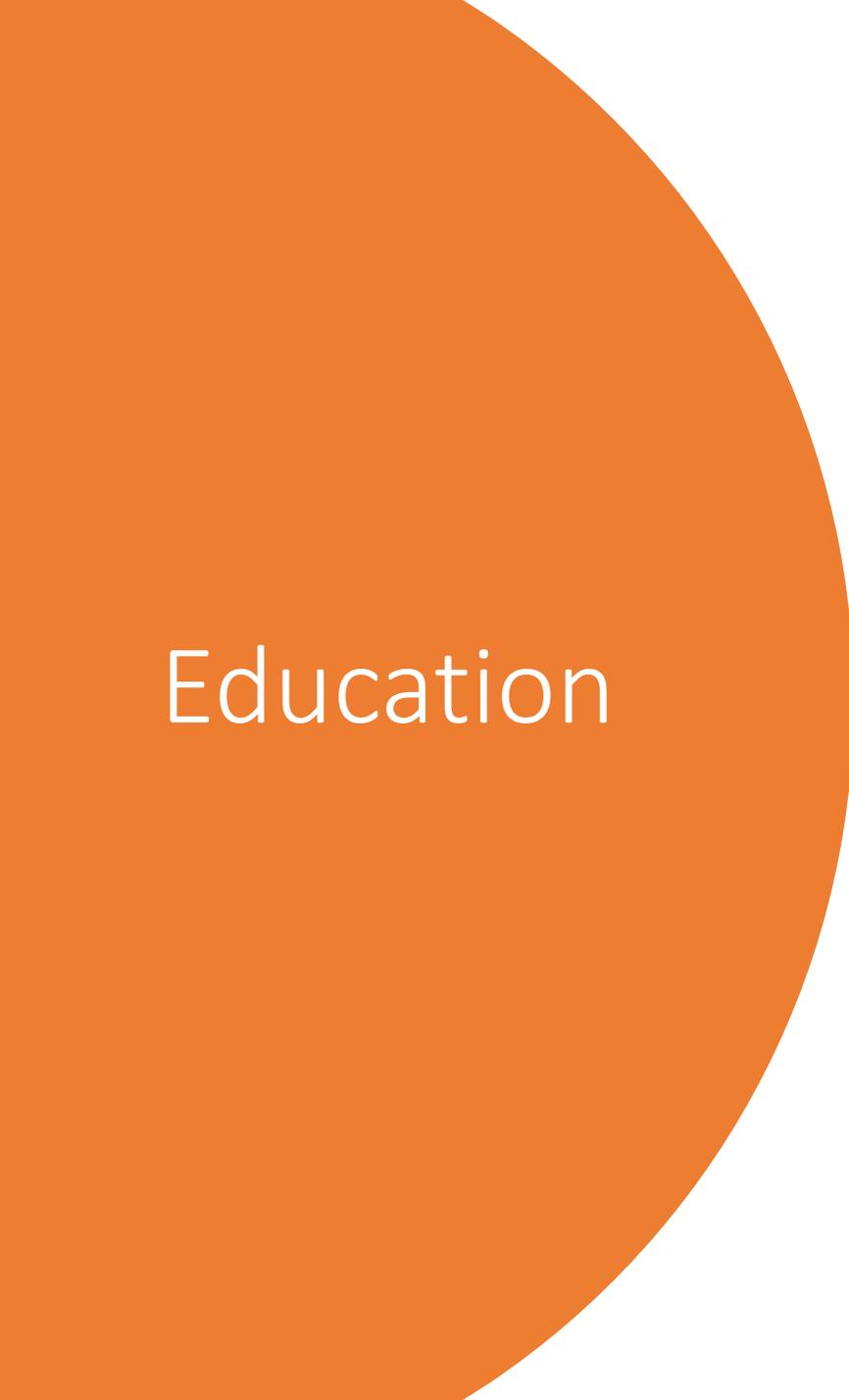
Who's
involved:



...A diverse group of members of our Sacramento community, including local community leaders, members of the bar, judiciary, and court administration.

Subcommittee Structure

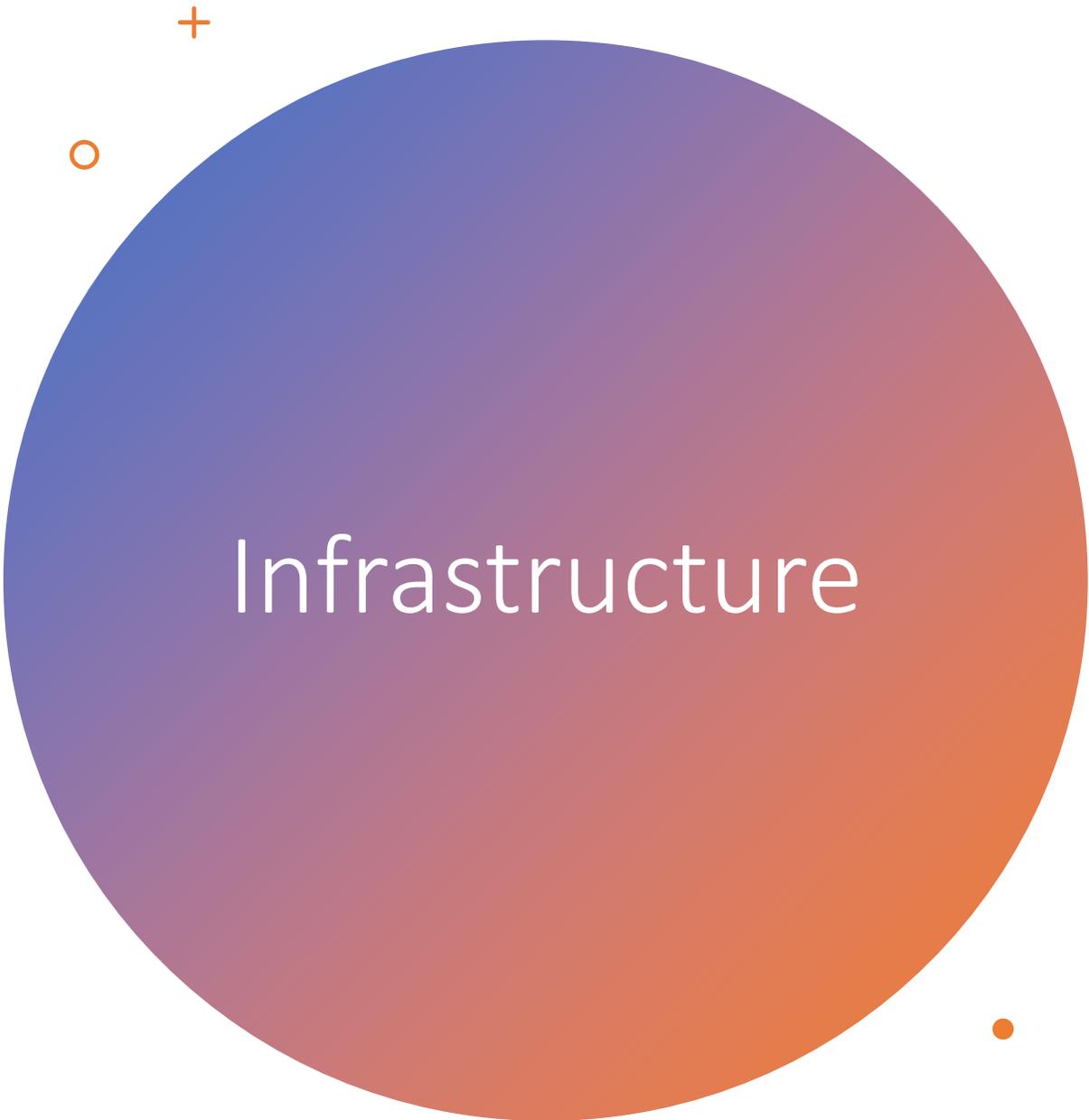
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Community Outreach
- Court Leadership



Education

The purpose of this subcommittee is to raise awareness among judicial officers on issues of equality and social justice, and elimination of bias in our courts.





Infrastructure

The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify, develop and implement plans to address internal culture, policies and practices that support inequalities in our courts (e.g. barriers to access to justice; expanding the jury pool; etc.).



Community Outreach

The purpose of this subcommittee is to engage and collaborate with local communities to identify and address inequities. This committee will host educational forums/conferences on topics relating to equality and social justice to strengthen ties with the community.

Court Leadership

The purpose of this subcommittee is to promote diversity and inclusivity in the judicial applicant pool and in the judicial leadership of our court.

Judicial Ethics

CJEO Final Opinion 2020-14
(issued July 20, 2020)

Question: May judicial officers ethically participate in public demonstrations and rallies about racial justice and equality, or make public statements about those matters, under the Code of Judicial Ethics?

Summary Answer: Judges have a paramount duty to comply with the judicial canons to promote the public's confidence in judicial impartiality, which is the foundation of our system of justice. Judges must not allow their conduct outside the courthouse to affect their ability to fulfill their judicial obligations on the bench. For these reasons, before attending or otherwise participating in a public demonstration or rally, or making a public statement on matters of public concern, judges must examine whether their conduct is ethically permissible, under the Code of Judicial Ethics.

A low-angle photograph of a classical statue of Lady Justice. She is depicted from the chest up, wearing a draped garment. Her right arm is raised, holding the top of a pair of scales of justice. The scales are tilted, with the right pan (viewer's left) being higher and the left pan (viewer's right) being lower. The background is a bright, clear sky. The text 'THE END' is superimposed in the center of the image.

THE END