

COURT EN BANC MINUTES
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference

Judges Present: Judges Kevin Crane, Jeff Harris, Brouck Jacobs, Kimberly Shaw, Carol England, Sue Crane, Tracy Gonzalez, Leslie Schneider, Stephanie Morrell, and Commissioners Sara Miller and Casey Clevenger

Others Present: Boone County Circuit Clerk Christy Blakemore, Callaway County Circuit Clerk Megan Morse, Adult Court Services Supervisor Brandon Walker, Court Marshal Ben Pruett, District Defender Sarah Aplin and Assistant District Defender Jeremy Pilkington, District Defender Kathryn Benson, Court Reporters Diana Taylor, Stephanie Allen, Jenni Bosh and Julia Paulus, Defense Attorney Kevin O'Brien, Columbia Tribune Reporter Charles Dunlap, Sr. Administrative Assistant Barbie Oeth, Court Administrator Mary Epping and Deputy Court Administrator Cindy Garrett

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Judge Kevin Crane at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Guests

Judge Kevin Crane welcomed guests.

3. Approval of December 15, 2020 Minutes

Judge Stephanie Morrell moved to accept the December 15, 2020 minutes. Second: Judge Leslie Schneider. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Orders of Destruction

Deputy Court Administrator Cindy Garrett reported the Boone County Circuit Clerk's office has asked to destroy by shredding the documents on pages 9 and 10 of the Court en Banc's packet. Judge Tracy Gonzalez moved to approve the destruction of the records listed. Second: Judge Kimberly Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Vote of Presiding Judge

Judge Kevin Crane appointed Judge Kimberly Shaw and Judge Tracy Gonzalez to count the votes of the paper ballots that have been provided to the Court en Banc prior to the meeting. Judge Jeff Harris said if the meeting were in person he would be nominating Judge Brouck Jacobs to be our next presiding judge. Judge Kevin Crane said it should also be on record that Judge Harris sent an email indicating this same information last week. Judges Shaw and Gonzalez returned shortly thereafter with the votes to announce

Judge Brouck Jacobs was selected as the next presiding judge. Judge Crane said he appreciates everyone's support over the last four years. Judge Jacobs thanked his colleagues for their confidence and thanked Judge Crane for his stewardship over the past four years. He said it is the highest privilege to represent our fantastic judges as presiding judge. He saluted his fellow judges, in addition to the staff, on all that was accomplished despite the pandemic. He said it is his honor to step in as presiding judge. Judge Jacobs's term starts Sunday, January 31, 2021.

Judge Carol England and Judge Sue Crane arrived for the meeting.

Board of Jail Visitors, Callaway

Judge Kevin Crane said this item is tabled and will be on the agenda next month. Judge England said she has been asking for volunteers without success. Judge Jeff Harris and Commissioner Casey Clevenger said they can both assist with soliciting male democrats for the committee roles.

Judge Harris left the meeting.

6. 2021 Major Work Objectives

Court Administrator Mary Epping reviewed the court's major work objectives for 2021 as outlined on pages 12 and 13 of the Court en Banc's packet. Mary asked that others let her know if there are other things they want added to the list. Mary also echoed Judge Brouck Jacobs to say Judge Kevin Crane was a lot of fun to work for and she learned a lot from him over the past four years. She thanked him for his leadership.

7. Legislation

Court Administrator Mary Epping said she is currently following a pre-filed bill regarding jury payment; she will follow legislation regarding raise the age; a bill was filed to add section 476.1022, RSMo, so that traffic and collection related cases are not available to the general public on Case.net if it has been 5 years since convicted; and she will be tracking bills related to GAL standards. Mary said there are a couple initiatives that she plans to ask someone to file: one for overtime payment for JJC staff and one to add a treatment court commissioner to the definition of judicial officer for the offense of tampering with a judicial officer. Commissioner Casey Clevenger said Travis Fitzwater filed this bill last year.

8. Other

None.

9. Comments from the Public

Assistant 13th District Defender Jeremy Pilkington wanted to make the court aware of the issues their office is facing in contacting clients in custody. He said contact visits at the Boone County jail are limited to nights and weekends, with no visits during office hours. Jeremy said there is a no-contact option; however, that is through a phone that is often broken and has an extremely short cord, making it very difficult to hear their clients. This option only allows one visit at a time and is shared with all attorneys. There is a jail line that goes to the Public Defender's office; however, the Public Defender has encouraged staff to stay away from the Public Defender's office and their office is currently closed. Jeremy said his office has worked with the jail to get a tablet set up, but the tablet they provided did not meet the jail's security standards. The jail has advised they have obtained their own tablet but it will be a few weeks before it is available. Jeremy also said since the jail is not using Reality House, their clients are now being housed in Cooper and Montgomery County jails. He said the Public Defender is trying to get a phone system and tablets set up in those jails as well. Jeremy is asking for this to be considered when their attorneys are requesting continuances or seeking to get their clients out on bond. Judge Kimberly Shaw inquired how much longer the public defender's office would be closed. Jeremy said that is to be determined. He said they are loosening restrictions and they were able to have a couple more people in the office this past week; they are also going through a management change and are trying to get another support staff back in so they can have the front door open with more regularity. He said they are shifting the time their office is open to be from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. as that works better for their staff and also is closer to the time people are being directed to their office from court to fill out applications.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. by Zoom. Judge Stephanie Morrell moved to adjourn. Second: Judge Tracy Gonzalez. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Prepared by: Cindy Garrett
Cindy Garrett
Deputy Court Administrator

Submitted by: Mary Epping
Mary Epping
Court Administrator

Distributed on: Feb. 19, 2021