

# Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee Report Spring 2024

## Current 2023/2024 Members:

Chair - The Hon. Karrie K. McIntyre

Vice Chair – Debra Dority

The Hon. Sean Armstrong

The Hon. Patricia McGuire

The Hon. Dawn McIntosh

The Hon. Keith Raines

Stephen Adams

Colleen Carter-Cox

Ryan Carty

Angie Curtis

Dr. Adam Furchner, Ph.D.

Linda Hukari

Lauren Mac Neill

Samantha Malloy

Kate Cooper Richardson

## OJD Staff Support:

Nanci Thaemert

Bryan Marsh

Amy Benedum

Chris Hill

Melissa Dablow

Nikki Hahn

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## **The Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee Report Spring 2024**

### Current 2023/2024 Members:

Chair - The Hon. Karrie K. McIntyre (Lane County Circuit Court)  
Vice Chair – Debra Dority (Attorney - State Support Unit, Oregon Law Center)  
The Hon. Sean Armstrong (Marion County Circuit Court)  
The Hon. Patricia McGuire (Multnomah County Circuit Court)  
The Hon. Dawn McIntosh (Clatsop County Circuit Court)  
The Hon. Keith Raines (Sr. Judge) (Washington County Circuit Court)  
Stephen Adams (Mediator, Wallowa County)  
Colleen Carter-Cox (Program Coordinator, Family Court Assistance Office – Lane County)  
Ryan Carty (Attorney – Marion County)  
Angela Curtis (Trial Court Administrator Deschutes County)  
Dr. Adam Furchner, Ph.D. (Psychologist, Portland)  
Linda Hukari (Trial Court Administrator, Marion County)  
Lauren Mac Neill (Mediator, Clackamas County)  
Samantha Malloy (Attorney, Jackson County)  
Kate Cooper Richardson (Attorney/Director – Dept. of Justice Oregon Child Support Program, Salem)

Members resigned 2023: none

### OJD Staff Support:

Nanci Thaemert  
Bryan Marsh  
Amy Benedum  
Chris Hill  
Melissa Dablow  
Nikki Hahn

## **STRUCTURE and HISTORY**

The founding statute, ORS 3.436, includes this language:

- (1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may appoint a statewide family law advisory committee to assist the State Court Administrator in carrying out the administrator's responsibilities under ORS 3.438 (2) and (4)(a) and in identifying family law issues that need to be addressed in the future. The Chief Justice shall consider the diversity of this state in appointing the members of the statewide advisory committee.

The Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee's charge shall include:

1. The SFLAC shall serve as the principal entity to review or identify for the State Court Administrator those family law issues in Oregon that need to be addressed and recommend appropriate action.
2. The SFLAC, together with the “Juvenile and Family Law Committee” of the Oregon Judicial Conference, shall make recommendations when appropriate for the major family

law policy and legislative issues and initiatives as they arise for the Office of State Court Administrator and the Oregon Judicial Department.

3. The chair and vice-chair of the SFLAC shall meet with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the State Court Administrator once a year to discuss and advise on family law matters.

Signed January 10, 2006 by:

Paul J. De Muniz, Chief Justice, Oregon Supreme Court

Kingsley W. Click, State Court Administrator

[View official signed charter.](#)

The State Family Law Advisory Committee (SFLAC) (established in 1998) is a multi-disciplinary group of, generally about, 16-18 members comprised of judges, trial court administrators, mediators, psychologists/evaluators, attorneys, family court service providers, and representatives from various state agencies, all of whom have an interest in, and passion for family law policy and service to Oregon's children and families and who represent diverse vantage points on family law and the Oregon Judicial Department. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court appoints SFLAC members to advise the State Court Administrator on family law issues in the courts. The SFLAC prepares educational materials and makes recommendations to the Judicial Department on topics within family law such as domestic violence, parental relationships, court operations, court connected mediation, and service to self-represented litigants. The SFLAC also conducts statewide conferences on family law issues for Court staff and the general public in Oregon to the extent that funds are available.

It meets quarterly and has several subcommittees that research and provide technical assistance on specific issues within family law or pertaining to family courts. The subcommittees are focused on service to children and families as they navigate the court systems in Oregon. Current projects include, garnering sufficient funding and resources to have sustainable court connected mediation, online legal notice provisions in family law matters, development and revisiting the court generated parenting plans, including safety based parenting plans, education and community outreach, domestic violence issue in families, remote child support courts and resources, access to justice issue particularly affecting self-represented litigants, parent education and more.

The SFLAC Members represent a diversity of professions (judiciary, law practice, court administration, child support, mediation, mental health, and others). There is conscious diversity of geography, gender and ethnicity and the SFLAC is actively and conscientiously working to evaluate our systemic biases and engage meaningfully with equity, diversity and inclusion work. To date, the Chair has been a judicial officer. While there are several judges from around the state that serve on the Committee, there is no judicial majority by design and recommendation of the group itself. The SFLAC, and its subcommittees, are committed to supporting family law policies, reforms and programs that serve all individuals and families who access Oregon's courts with a goal of improving systems for families both in and out of court. We believe we can do so only with a diverse membership which actively cultivates a culture of equity and inclusion. Thus, we are committed to seeking out and strongly encouraging applicants to apply who are persons from historically underrepresented communities in the family law policy making arena

such as incarcerated parents, veterans, persons with disabilities, persons of color and those who are LGBTQIA2S+.

The meetings are open to the public. SFLAC publishes its agendas in advance, maintains a page on the Oregon Judicial Department website, assures access to the meetings by allowing remote appearances, and provides opportunity for public comment at the meetings. SFLAC members and guests may call in to meetings, and video access is now also provided. When meetings are held in-person, members may request reimbursement for travel expenses if funds are available, but members receive no compensation for service.

Members have an excellent attendance rate at the meetings, which is critical because each member has been chosen to participate in the group based on their unique knowledge and skills set. The meetings are comprehensive and allow for an exchange of information and sharing of goals for family law policy in the State of Oregon. There is equality of individual respect not arbitrarily hindered by hierarchy, titles, length of service, or deference to rank. There is an atmosphere of businesslike informality, humor, and collegiality. There is often outspoken, but respectful, frankness in pursuit of consensus, which is almost always reached, but is not required. This refreshing dynamic allows the group to tackle tough issues with fervor and continue to strive to have Oregon be a leader in prioritizing service to families involved with Oregon courts.

The volunteer service on SFLAC requires a substantial time commitment. Meetings are quarterly (typically March, June, September, and December), usually on Fridays, and three of the four meetings last up to four hours, while one lasts a full day. The in-person meeting serves as an all-day retreat where the group engages in substantive SFLAC project planning. The location of the all-day retreat varies throughout Oregon, and the group uses the annual retreat meeting as an opportunity to connect with the local courts and community.

Members are actively involved and generally serve on one or more subcommittees. Service on the subcommittees require interim meetings and preparation for the quarterly SFLAC meetings. Subcommittees and work groups are formed as needed. It is not necessary to be an SFLAC member to serve on a subcommittee, in fact, the SFLAC benefits when the subcommittee membership pull from a broader pool of people for insight and contributions. Many SFLAC members have contributed prior service on a subcommittee, and we have started asking applicants interested in serving on the SFLAC to get involved with one of our subcommittees prior to considering joining the SFLAC.

The SFLAC has a strong internal vetting process and review of projects prior to approval by the SFLAC. When generating recommendations, we have created an expectation that projects will be vetted by each subcommittee before being forwarded to the SFLAC (and ultimately the Chief Justice and SCA) for final approval. This creates a broader audience for review and input to attempt to reach a meaningful consensus on projects and recommendations.

At least annually, the Chief Justice and the State Court Administrator (SCA) meet with SFLAC to discuss issues and policies under the purview of the committee. SFLAC remains advisory to the Chief Justice and SCA. Additionally, each member serves as liaison to one or more local Family Law Advisory Committees (FLAC) and reports on the activities of the local FLACs.

## **THE ONGOING WORK AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023:**

The SFLAC, and its members individually, remain active throughout the State promoting the work of the SFLAC as follows:

- 1) The SFLAC/OJD Conference June 2023: The Education Subcommittee planned and facilitated presenters for bi-annual conference held at the Salem Convention Center. It was a two-day event with 16 presentations and over 200 attendees from cross disciplinary fields for professionals who serve families with court connected cases. Many of the subcommittee Chairs either presented or recommended presenters/topics. (More details in the Education subcommittee report. Speakers included members of the Data, Domestic Violence, Child Support, Education, Mediation and PIOS Subcommittees).
- 2) Continuing engagement and support of Local FLACs: The SFLAC has identified the importance of supporting the continued growth of local FLACs as an ongoing goal. With recent and effective broad outreach efforts, the SFLAC members worked with their local communities to reconstitute local FLACs in Marion, Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Coos/Curry counties. The SFLAC members continue with outreach in other judicial districts making inquiries into a process to restart their dormant groups. This critical growth will continue to increase the flow of communication, information sharing and ultimately improve the work of OJD in serving Oregon families around the state. *While all Presiding Judges are required to constitute an FLAC to address policy on family law issues in their county, some judicial districts FLACs remain dormant.*
- 3) Informing the Legislature: Members of the SFLAC are called upon in their various individual capacities to provide independent insight regarding family law policies to the Courts, the legislature, and as experts for organizations and conferences locally and nationwide. It is fairly common to see SFLAC members providing testimony or informational interviews to State legislators or legislative committees involved in specific family law bills. While these presentations at the Capitol and at various educational conferences are not within the charge and purview of the work of the SFLAC, it is an additional way that the members are staying involved in their local and state efforts to shape and inform family law policies. The SFLAC continues to extend invitations to legislators to attend the SFLAC meetings, with the hope of building foundational relationships so that legislators recognize the SFLAC as a resource in the future when family law-related issues arise.
- 4) Annual Retreat and internal education efforts: The SFLAC met at the annual retreat and work session to discuss long term projects consistent with the OJD Justice Campaign. Our internal education and outreach initiatives have focused on evaluating how the current make-up of the SFLAC and its subcommittees are addressing the diverse needs of the populations in Oregon. Valerie Colas and Shalini Vivek, (Oregon Judicial Department Access to Justice Counsel for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

guided the groups through several EDI workshops and training to that we can better incorporate these principles in our continued work and outreach.

- 5) Strengthened Organizational Structure and Enhanced Recruitment Efforts: SFLAC Chair and SFLAC Vice Chair continue to meet with the Chairs of each of the subcommittees annually. This year the focus of the meetings included: 1) ongoing leadership structure to facilitate continuity over time, 2) assessing each committees needs to be inclusive and have active outreach for membership, 3) discussing the newly revised justice campaign, 4) ensuring the committees were coordinating on overlapping work and facilitating those communications.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

The work products of the SFLAC generally start with the dedicated efforts of its many subcommittees and workgroups. These subcommittees will constitute, expand, decrease, and go dormant from time to time depending on the needs of the group. The currently active subcommittees are listed below with a summary statement regarding recent completed projects.

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#### **EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Colleen Carter-Cox (Program Coordinator, Family Court Assistance Office, Lane County) and Hannah Marchese (Program Manager, SOFI, Jackson); and Facilitator Workgroup Chair Teala Sunderman (Family Law Program Manager, Union)

**Members:** Hon. Karrie McIntyre (Lane County Circuit Court), Hon. Kelly LeMarr (Washington County Circuit Court), Hon. Keith Raines (Senior Judge, Washington County Circuit Court), Debra Dority (Statewide Support Unit Attorney Oregon Law Center), Hannah Marchese (Program Manager, SOFI, Jackson), Danielle Ramos (OJD, CCPD), Nanci Thaemert (Supervisor JFCPD, OJD), Tracye Cardoza (Program Coordinator/Family Law Facilitator, Klamath/Lake), Maxine Tuan (private lawyer, Multnomah), Marilee Aldred (Trial Court Administrator, Malheur) and Teala Sunderman (Family Law Program Manager, Union).

**OJD Staff Assigned:** Bryan Marsh, Melissa Dablow and Nikki Hahn

#### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

- Planning and implementation of the 2023 Family Law Conference in Salem (<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/sflac/Conference%20Materials/FLC.23.Age%20nda.Program.pdf>)
- Approval and distribution of the How to Serve Legal Papers pamphlet for litigants
- Continued planning and coordination of monthly education for facilitators
- Collaboration with OSB on Portal Project
- Continued work on the online facilitator basics training guide

**What are the subcommittee's top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

In 2024 the SFLAC Education Subcommittee will focus work on the Facilitator Training Conference on September 27, 2024, in Eugene, finalize and post the facilitation basics training guide on Sharepoint (to coincide with facilitator conference date), and draft and distribute a flyer to help guide self-represented litigants navigate online resources (Spring 2024).

**What are the subcommittee's top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

- Host Bi-Annual Family Law Conference
- Host Bi-Annual Facilitator Training Conference
- Increase and diversify membership
- Collaborate with and support other SFLAC subcommittees
- Provide educational materials for litigants and training materials for staff re Licensed Paralegals (LPs)
- Continue to address relevant educational needs of both internal and external court users

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

- Resources in relation to staffing/time/budget
- Subcommittee requests for staff and partner review of proposed materials and participation in polls or post-training surveys is at times low. This limited feedback can make it more challenging to know if we are creating meaningful resources and adequately addressing training concerns.
- The diversity and variations between courts in policies, procedures, rules, and community needs can make education and training challenging

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

Our subcommittee continues to focus on building relationships between community partners, the courts, and court users through education. We are also examining how to better address diversity in our membership and ensure that the educational materials we create address the needs of members in our community that have been traditionally marginalized or underrepresented. Developing quality family law educational materials for self-represented litigants helps to achieve this. Providing education and training for court staff and internal customers regarding family law procedures and practices helps bring resources to people in need.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

The SFLAC Education Subcommittee's main duties are education and training for both court staff and the public. Education is crucial for expanding access to justice. In creating materials and training, the evaluation of the needs of self-represented litigants is perpetual and inherent to the work. We value the feedback we receive from the courts and our community partners. We strive to respond in a meaningful way to create materials that better address the needs of self-represented litigants and provide trainings that educate staff to provide accurate and quality information to litigants.

**Given SFLAC’s (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

The subcommittee can continue to actively seek to increase diversity to incorporate a wider range of perspective and voices, specifically voices from Latino/a/x population and our education system that overlaps with children and court orders on a regular basis.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

We have great staff support for our subcommittee from JFCPD. It would be amazing if we had a designated budget to work within for creating educational materials.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

It would be helpful for the subcommittee leadership to have the opportunity to convene and collaborate to information share and evaluate each other’s goals and projects. The SFLAC chairs currently do this meeting with the subcommittee cochairs on a yearly basis however, it would be nice for the subcommittee chairs to be privy to the overlaps and information share. There are a handful of subcommittee chairs that are not on SFLAC and therefore do not attend the quarterly meetings. Perhaps these cochairs could be invited to the retreat for a networking session to help better coordinate the Committee’s work as a whole.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

We really appreciate the opportunity to participate in SFLAC and several SFLAC subcommittees. The opportunity to network and be apprised of trends, new ideas, rules, and procedures is invaluable. It is fulfilling to have a part in creating educational opportunities and resources for both colleagues and the litigants who navigate the Oregon courts.

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## **CHILD SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Kate Cooper Richardson (Director Oregon Child Support Program, DOJ), Claudia Groberg Garcia (Chief Counsel, Civil Enforcement Division, DOJ).

**Members:** The Hon. Maureen McKnight (Sr. Judge, Multnomah), The Hon. Keith Raines (Sr. Judge, Washington), The Hon. Donna Moursund Brann (Presiding ALJ, Lane & Statewide), James E. Belshe (TCA Linn), Trena Klohe (Oregon Law Center Senior Attorney, Washington), Shannon L. Richard (Assistant Attorney-in-Charge Civil Recovery Section, DOJ, Lane/Statewide), Michael L. Ritchey (General Counsel, Oregon Child Support Program, Statewide), Sabrina Owen (CSP Liaison ODAA), Chris Hill (CSP Analyst OJD JFCP), , Kristi Willis (Family Law Program Coord., Benton), Angie A. LaNier (Hearings Referee Remote CS Court/OJD, Jackson/Statewide). *Vacant positions:* private family law bar, family law supervisor, current family law Judge, public defender or defense bar representative.

**OJD Staff Assigned:** No OJD Admin staff; Support provided by DOJ.

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**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

The Child Support Subcommittee was on hiatus for a few years and has now re-formed, meeting bi-monthly since September 2022. The three focus areas have been (1) determining and adjusting subcommittee membership, (2) learning about and providing subject-matter expertise to the development of OJD’s new Remote Child Support Court and now also the Parent Accountability & Experience (PAE) program for child support litigants, and (3) developing and delivering child support education to those working in the court system, including judges. The subcommittee also provided input for the SFLAC Judicial Benchcard project, specifically for child support benchcards.

To the child support education focus, the subcommittee supported a child support session at the SFLAC Family Law Conference in June. Some members participated directly on the panel, and the session was well attended and received. The subcommittee also developed a series of three webinars for sitting judges on child support issues with practical tips. Those webinars were delivered on October 31, November 30, and January 31, and the topics were, respectively, an overview of the IV-D program with some practical tips, child support income determinations, and modifications and medical support. The videos and materials related to the presentations remain available to judges.

**What are the subcommittee’s top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

One short-term priority is to continue to provide support and operate as a resource and “sounding board” for the expanding OJD child support efforts. Another short-term priority is to assist in putting together a child support session for OJD/SFLAC Family Law Facilitator Conference in September. After completion of judicial training series, another priority for this year is identifying specific educational projects for the next effort—that should occur within the next meeting or two. Finally, filling the identified vacancies on the subcommittee is a short-term priority, and we hope to complete that in the next couple of months.

**What are the subcommittee’s top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

Although the re-formed subcommittee is still somewhat nascent, its long-term project priorities are coming into focus. The subcommittee has identified the development and establishment of child support-specific education and CLEs for target audiences, especially the bench (even beyond what has been offered in the last year), family court facilitators, and trial court administrators. Another long-term priority is development of assistance materials (including videos) for self-represented child support parties navigating the judicial process. Last, the subcommittee will explore the transformation of the federal child support program over the last decade of its 50-year history—both in mission and practice—and whether (and how) to make recommendations for education about practical and cultural changes in child support.

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

Our subcommittee has not identified any specific barriers or challenges to date, although we are relatively new to our projects. Having a dedicated OJD child support analyst, and who is part of the subcommittee, is especially helpful in identifying any potential barriers and providing insight to any possible challenges.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

Our subcommittee has not had a particularly in-depth discussion on this specific topic, other than some preliminary conversation related to parent voices and how to incorporate that perspective.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

Yes, it has, and it will continue to do so. Because a large majority of child support parties are self-represented—and for some it may be their only encounter with the judicial system—it remains foremost in this subcommittee’s commitment to education efforts. That might manifest in deeper training and connections for court staff, for instance, or in direct support for self-represented parties through development of self-help aids or other materials.

**Given SFLAC’s (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

We have identified some perspectives to add and have a vacancy from a recent resignation (noted in the membership list).

We are also mindful of the principle of “nothing about us without us” relative to self-represented parties and those with lived experience, and evaluating if and how we are bringing those voices and perspectives to the table through meaningful representation—if not specifically as a subcommittee member, then through some other forum (e.g., focus group).

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

We have welcomed the chair and vice-chair’s counsel and support to date.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

Not at this time.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

Not at this time

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**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE (PIOS)**

**Chairs:** Dr. Adam Furchner, Ph.D. (Portland), Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn (Multnomah County)

**Members:** Hon. Sean Armstrong (Marion), Hon. Bethany Flint (Deschutes), Hon. Dawn McIntosh (Clatsop), Hon. Sara Collins (Jackson), Scott Leibenguth (Attorney Portland), Robin Stedfeld (Mediator Union County), Judith Swinney (Parenting time supervisor, Portland), Tracy Vogeltanz (Family Court Staff Portland), Dr. Wendy Bourg, Ph.D. (Psychologist, Portland), Kathleen Zumpano (Child Specialist, Portland), Vicki Bruno (Mediator, Portland)

**OJD staff assigned:** Amy Benedum and Bryan Marsh

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

PIOS spent 2023 working on a number of projects. We focused on distributing and publishing the Parent Guide to Parent-Child contact problems, and presented our recent publications at the SFLAC conference in the spring.

We began reviewing the available Safety Focused Parenting Plan for Oregon, which needed updating and revision.

**What are the subcommittee’s top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

PIOS is currently working on several related projects. We are continuing work, in collaboration with the DV subcommittee, on needed revisions to the Safety Focused Parenting Plan. Our goal is to produce a guide that can educate and serve the legal community and litigants who have questions about when a safety focused plan is needed, what stipulations might be relevant, and the legal process available to self-represented litigants in need. Our goal is to provide materials that are useful to a wide range of litigants and families who have concerns about the safety of their children during parenting time.

We are beginning work to revise the standard online parenting plan guide as well. We hope to provide the public with research-informed recommendations and templates so that litigants without access to legal representation can make child centered decisions in developing plans for their children’s care.

Finally, we are undertaking a review of the parent education services offered by counties across Oregon. By statute every county must offer separating parents some child-centered education about how to insulate their children from the negative effects of parental separation. We hope to review the current literature and any available recommendations about the delivery and content of parent education, and to make some broad recommendations about topics and information that counties in Oregon should include in their parent education services.

**What are the subcommittee’s top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

We expect that the projects detailed above will take some time to complete. Beyond these current projects, we envision a continued focus on updating and revising the online materials currently available to separating parents. The current products are limited in scope and ease of use, and need updating with current research and accepted best practices.

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

The topics addressed by PIOS tend to be complex and nuanced. We face challenges in developing materials that convey this complexity without overwhelming the reader. Often, we need to develop multiple products due to multiple audiences (e.g. litigants and the law community).

OJD has been tremendously helpful and supportive of our work. We have continued challenges with developing complex materials and translating those materials to consumable products. This is not a challenge specific to PIOS, and the solutions are limited by budget, but our committee

would love to have access to a wider range of product development specialists who might help with video production, app development, or website revision in order to reduce barriers to accessing our products and reach a wider audience.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

PIOS continues its mission to prioritize self-represented litigants in developing materials and education.

Within our subcommittee we continue our discussions about how to diversify the individuals and voices present in our meetings.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

In both our current and past work, the PIOS strives to maintain a focus on how best to deliver education and support for self-represented litigants. While we also develop educational materials and provide information to the family law community, our first priority is supporting the needs of self-represented litigants and those families who aim to minimize the need for litigation.

**Given SFLAC's (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

There is always room to improve the range of voices at the table. As a subcommittee we frequently discuss adding members who bring new perspectives, and have reached out at times to invite possible new members, but have had limited success in diversifying our membership. We would appreciate OJD's guidance and assistance with helping us recruit new members for this energetic and hard-working group.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

As stated above.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

We appreciate chair Judge McIntyre's encouragement and support and look forward to partnering with her and the SFLAC moving forward. We also agree that having the subcommittees review and collaborate on each other's products is helpful.

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Debra Dority (Attorney, Oregon Law Center, Statewide) and Samantha Malloy (Attorney, Rogue Family Law, Jackson)

**Members:** Amy Benedum (JFCPD OJD Statewide), Jenny Woodson (Domestic/Sexual Violence Program, DHS, Child Welfare), Diana Fleming (CVSSD, DOJ), Samantha Benton (private attorney, Hood River), Sarah Sabri (Sr. Asst Attorney, DOJ), Hon. Patricia McGuire (Multnomah County Circuit Court), Hon. Dawn McIntosh (Clatsop County Circuit Court), Emily Brown-Sitnick (Legal Aid Services of Oregon – Multnomah, Clackamas, Hood River, Sherman and Wasco), Kathryn

Moakley (Attorney and University of Oregon DV Clinic Supervisor), Lonny R. Webb, LCSW (private clinician, Clackamas). \*Hon. Maureen McKnight (Senior Judge, Multnomah County) and Dr. Sheldon Levy (OHSU Dept. of Family Medicine) included as *interested persons*.

**OJD Staff Assigned:** Amy Benedum

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

The bulk of the work of the Domestic Violence Subcommittee (DV Sub) was finalization of a substantial update to the Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) Benchbook which had not been updated since 2018. This included both case law developments and statutory changes to FAPA including monitoring Federal law changes (such as the *US v Rahimi* case pending before the United States Supreme Court). This update included a format change, updated terminology, links to every FAPA case opinion, inclusion of our Mission Statement, Trauma Informed language and addition of even more appendices.

In addition, the DV Sub has adopted its Mission Statement to clarify the orientation of the committee within the broader mandate of serving the Oregon court system for all stakeholders and participants. The DV Subcommittee Mission Statement builds upon the original mandate from the inception of the DV Sub utilizing a grant from Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This project has significant benefits as DV begins its work on Engagement, Equity and Inclusion especially as it relates to recruitment and project selection.

The DV Subcommittee worked extensively with the Parental Involvement and Outreach Subcommittee Parent's guide to Parent-Child Contact Problems to provide feedback from a safety and trauma informed perspective.

The DV Sub has also created a workgroup with the PIOS Subcommittee to update and create additional resources related to the Safety-Focused Parenting Plan. This work is ongoing for the members of the DV Sub that have joined this workgroup. The materials will be brought to the full DV Sub for review.

The subcommittee wished DV/SA Advocate Katie Haslinger a fond farewell as she resigned from the subcommittee to pursue a legal education. The DV Subcommittee will work on recruiting a new non-profit, victim service provider advocate.

**What are the subcommittee's top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

The DV Sub will be devoting substantial attention to completion of our Equity Analysis in the first and second quarters. The DV Subcommittee's work is such that it is inherently sensitive and often polarizing among participants. Thus, it is the view of the subcommittee that the compelling need for input from all participants and users of the DV system must be balanced against the power dynamics of this area of law.

The DV Sub will continue our work with the PIOS Subcommittee in the joint workgroup to create additional resources regarding safety focused parenting plans and updating the present Safety Focused Parenting Plan, that was most recently updated in 2003.

The DV Sub will be partnering with the Mediation Subcommittee to work on developing resources for mediators both in terms of screening and identification of DV dynamics, proposed plan in order for courts to comply with ORS 107.755(1)(d), and offer of trainings for best practices in mediation where DV dynamics are a concern in the case.

The DV Sub will be continuing consideration of 2023 projects to: (1) design solutions to the failure of law enforcement to respond to restraining order violations and gun forfeiture mandates (subject to *Rahimi*); (2) input to OJD for the DV resources on the newly launched portal.

The DV Sub is exploring ways to identify categories of data to collect about DV outcomes. We will be approaching the Data subcommittee to investigate partnering with them to categorize and locate data points implicated by the Secretary of State report [Breaking the Cycle: A Comprehensive Statewide Strategy Would Benefit Domestic Violence Victims, Survivors, and Advocates](#), and recent related legislative hearings. This will focus on outcomes for protection orders but may include areas to survey such as docket times, renewals, etc.

**What are the subcommittee’s top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

- Continuation of our discrete project work both within the SFLAC subcommittees as well as our partners at OJD to permit the DV Subcommittee to provide assistance without disrupting or delaying DV Subcommittee goals and work.
- Updating the Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act (EPPDAPA) Bench Books.
- Further implementation of Oregon’s firearm dispossession protocols including providing training and resources (such as our newly updated Firearms Benchsheets) and updating any resources, if necessary, after the U.S. Supreme Court Case *Rahimi*.
- Investigate the increased practice of law enforcement’s failure to respond to calls of protection order violations and analyze ways to ensure those protected by such orders remain protected.

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

We will continue the following work:

- Propose updates and changes to court forms, materials, and resources regarding domestic violence (including developing updates to the FAPA Bench Book and the EPPDAPA Bench Book, and the Stalking Bench Book when necessary).
- Support education of the bench and bar related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Propose and provide speakers for the SFLAC Conference on domestic violence, working with trauma survivors, and firearms.
- Advise the Chief Justice on issues relating to domestic violence.
- Collaborate with other subcommittees and partners on issues with a DV component.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

Our cross-committee collaborations are assisting us to work with underrepresented voices while remaining true to our mandate and Mission to address DV issues through a survivor-centric lens as survivors are often the marginalized voices in our work. For example, working with the PIOS

subcommittee has enabled us to focus on the child's perspective outside the broader context of family safety. Working with the mediation subcommittee will enable us to consider respondent perspectives within the context of mediation as well as that of the mediators. Similarly, DV is interested in getting input from the batterer intervention professionals which can broaden the input of respondents in DV cases.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

The DV Sub is acutely focused on the needs of self-represented litigants. Although domestic violence does not discriminate based on economic status, the financial impacts of domestic violence upon survivors as well as the power and control dynamic inherent in DV cases means that those seeking protective orders are often unable to afford counsel.

**Given SFLAC's (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

The DV Sub has been working to balance the need for engagement, equity and inclusion against the polarized climate of DV cases and power dynamics. Accordingly, after clarifying our mission statement, we are working to broaden the voices through working groups and collaborations. For example, we are looking to work with Batterer Intervention professionals, Mediators, and the private bar. We are also investigating guest speakers to share their lived experience within the DV system to gain insight about ways to further support families experiencing Domestic Violence.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

Collaboration with OJD and our fellow SFLAC subcommittees will enable us to gather information (for example, the Data subcommittee) and share (the Mediation and PIOS subcommittees) resources to improve our work.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

None.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

None.

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## **MEDIATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Caitlyn Jackson (Oregon Judicial Department, Alternative Dispute Resolution Analyst) and Laura Bisbee (Multnomah County Family Court Services)

**Members:** Cindy Carr (Washington County Juvenile/Mediation Services), Angie Curtis (Trial Court Administrator 7<sup>th</sup> District), Hon. Karrie McIntyre (Lane County), Kristin Jocums (Peaceful Family Solutions, Private Mediator, Benton) AJ Wahl (Private Attorney Court Connected Mediator, Clatsop County), Cory Matthews (Clackamas County Resolution Services), Jennifer Price (Multnomah County Family Resolution Services), Lauren MacNeill (Mac Neill Family Mediation & Therapy, Clackamas)

**OJD Staff Assigned:** Amy Benedum

### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

In 2023, the mediation subcommittee:

- Presented on the *Attorneys Supporting Clients During Mediation Guide* at the SFLAC Family Law Conference;
- Made recommendations to the SFLAC and the OJD regarding 1) The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year domestic relations mediation funding allocation and 2) The minimum mediation hours to which family law litigants should have free access to across the state;
- Helped revise the Mediator Report to the Court form so that the OJD can quantify domestic relations mediation of financial issues data;
- Explored project ideas and evaluated subcommittee membership needs for 2024; and
- Multiple subcommittee members currently participate on the Uniform Trial Court Rules Chapter 12 Court-Connected Mediator Qualifications Committees and Workgroups.

### **What are the subcommittee's top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

- Intentionally and thoughtfully recruit new subcommittee members and workgroup participants based on project need using diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEI-B) tools.
- Partner with the SFLAC Domestic Violence Subcommittee to 1) Identify domestic violence screening tools for mediators to use, and 2) to make recommendations regarding DV screening practices at the court and mediator level to ensure cases are adequately screened for safety concerns.
- Create a series of "Tip Sheets" to share recommended practices with courts and mediators using the Mediator Reports to the Court data. The subcommittee hopes to create the first "Tip Sheet" by the end of 2024 based on the "Full" and "Partial" agreement data.
- Initiate a joint project with the PIOS subcommittee or otherwise support the work of the PIOS subcommittee to make practice recommendations to help ensure access across Oregon to high-quality parent education programs under ORS 3.425.
- Continue to offer recommendations to SFLAC and the OJD regarding statewide domestic relations mediation funding.

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**What are the subcommittee’s top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

- The “Tips Sheet” project is intended to be an ongoing effort to provide recommended practices to courts and mediators using the Mediator Reports to the Court data.
- The efforts to make practice recommendations to help ensure access across Oregon to high-quality parent education programs noted above could be a short- or long-term effort.
- Continue to focus on recruitment and retention of committee members who represent a wide range of locations, disciplines, and roles in the family law system to ensure an array of perspectives are considered as we seek to improve access to quality dispute resolution services throughout Oregon.

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

- One of the challenges in furthering our work is that the subcommittee has historically had higher levels of participation from Program mediation county stakeholders. Increasing the participation of stakeholders from Panel counties will enhance the work of the subcommittee by providing a clearer understanding of the challenges and barriers experienced at their local level so systemic solutions can be proposed and considered with the goal of improving access to high quality mediation services for parents across Oregon.
- Two ongoing challenges for the subcommittee include needing to address:
  - Domestic relations mediation funding challenges so that the subcommittee can shift its focus to creating resources and recommendations for mediators and courts; and
  - Mediator Report to the Court business process and data discrepancies to improve the quality of statewide mediation data for the creation of “Tips Sheets” resources.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

In 2024, the mediation subcommittee will implement a new recruitment process for the subcommittee and subcommittee workgroups which will be rooted in DEI-B tools and values.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

Yes. The mediation subcommittee evaluates the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of our projects.

**Given SFLAC’s (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

The mediation subcommittee has a somewhat geographically diverse membership and involves multiple court-connected mediation stakeholders. The mediation subcommittee membership is limited in many ways though. Expanding subcommittee membership and workgroup membership through the implementation of DEI-B tools and values is an area of focus for the subcommittee in 2024 to enhance input from rural and BIPOC practitioners and family law litigants.

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**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

We recommend there be a joint subcommittee workgroup or a separate SFLAC subcommittee dedicated to making practice recommendations to help ensure access across Oregon to high-quality parent education programs under ORS 3.425 (and potentially to make funding recommendations for such services).

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

We do not have suggestions at this time.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee?**

We do not have additional information to share at this time.

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**FUTURES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Ryan Carty (Attorney, Marion), Samantha Malloy (Attorney, Jackson)

**Current Members:** Stephen Adams (Retired Attorney Mediator, Wallowa County), Colleen Carter Cox (Program Coordinator, Family Court Assistance Office, Lane County), Valerie Colas (OSCA, OJD) Linda Hukari (Trial Court Administer, Marion County), William Howe (Attorney, Portland), John Grant (Attorney, Portland), Hon. Karrie McIntyre (OJD, Lane), Hon. Maureen McKnight (Retired OJD, Multnomah), Hon. Daniel Murphy (Ret. OJD, Linn), Shawn Menashe (Attorney, Multnomah), Christine Hill (OJD, Multnomah) , Nanci Thaemert, Hon. Jacqueline Lizeth Alarcon (Multnomah), Angela Laidlaw (Attorney, Clackamas), Amy Miller (Asst. Deputy State Court Administrator/OJD, Multnomah), Jennifer Peckham (Attorney, Portland), \*Crystal Reeves (former Trial Court Administrator, Columbia, stepped down 2023).

**OJD Staff Assigned:** Bryan Marsh

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

This year saw a change in membership as Judges McIntyre and Armstrong rotated off the subcommittee and Judge Alarcon joined us. New members from the private bar include Angela Laidlaw and Jennifer Peckham.

The Futures Subcommittee finalized the IDRT project from 2022 with the approval of the amendment to Rule 8.120.

The Futures Subcommittee started and completed its Court Legal Notice Webpage Proposal putting forward a recommendation to OJD to develop/maintain a web-based method of service. This alternative service modality was offered as a more affordable alternative service method than the print service by publication. The project included research, analysis of successfully implemented models in other jurisdictions and consideration of Oregon-specific needs/potential opposition. The recommendation was unanimously approved by the SFLAC at the December 2023 quarterly meeting. The Futures Subcommittee continues to provide oversight and suggestions.

The Futures Subcommittee has continued to support the Facilitation Initiative to make remote family court facilitation available throughout the state, including making recommendations regarding data sharing, coordination, uniformity, and resources.

The Futures Subcommittee has begun an analysis of the impact of Artificial Intelligence (“AI”), with emphasis on Generative AI. The analysis includes an overview of the opportunities and risks of AI as well as its broader implications for access to justice issues. The Subcommittee had several guests to assist with this exploration including Natalie Knowlton, Heather Bowman and Keren Farkas (from PLF) and Ankur Doshi from the Oregon State Bar. Draft recommendations from Futures to OJD were circulated for comment including exploration of recommendations specifically regarding Self-Represented litigants.

**What are the subcommittee’s top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

The short-term priorities for 2024 include completion of Futures’ recommendation report about AI to take to SFLAC for comment and/or approval at the next quarterly meeting.

Futures will complete its Equity Analysis Worksheet to bring the excellent work started at the full SFLAC 2023 retreat to Futures with emphasis on our efforts to enhance Diversity, Engagement, Equity and Inclusion through recruitment, guest speakers and project identification. As a related project, Futures will be looking at ways to address language barriers for ESL individuals seeking legal services in their first languages.

Another project for Futures in 2024 will be examination of self-scheduling tools for SRL’s to both increase engagement and participation in their cases from form review and appointments to attending and participating in their scheduled hearings to lower historical barriers.

**What are the subcommittee’s top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

- Continue to promote systems reducing barriers to justice (e.g., improvement and expansion of court websites as repositories for self-represented litigants including notice by publication, IDRT information, AI guidance, pilot program for allowing litigants to self-schedule court appearances such as status conferences, etc.).
- Identify case-type specific triage that will target and streamline processes to provide early and frequent interventions that will help resolve cases without resorting to traditional litigation of trials and hearings. Examples include case conferences, judicial settlement conferences, interim relief through written submissions, etc.
- Continue to examine innovations across national and international jurisdictions to identify initiatives that increase access to justice and evaluate for adoption and Oregon-specific innovation.
- Continue to identify and promote strategies to facilitate access to justice through unbundling by both attorneys and the courts (enhanced access to judicial resources in the form of status conferences, settlement conferences, streamlined interim relief such as temporary support on pleadings, etc.)

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**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

One of the challenges of Futures' work is to avoid duplication of efforts with other Bar and OJD initiatives to avoid inconsistent or superfluous initiatives and recommendations.

In addition, as much of the work of Futures involves technological advances, keeping pace with such explosive technologies remains an ongoing challenge. A specific example is the work Futures has undertaken to create recommendations and identify projects regarding AI that are broad enough to remain relevant as technologies advance while also offering sufficient specificity to assist in innovation and reduction in A2J barriers.

An ongoing challenge to Future's commitment to diversity, engagement, equity, and inclusion on the subcommittee is the demand upon subcommittee members of time, energy and expertise.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

Futures intends to expand our 2023 trend of inviting guest speakers to inform our work by sharing their lived experiences. Specifically, Futures will be reaching out to the SRL population in general as well as specifically seeking input from ESL speakers, BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ community members and differently abled SRL's.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

Identifying, examining, and implementing innovations, a cornerstone of Futures' work, is consistently focused on the experience, needs and support of SRL's.

**Given SFLAC's (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

Futures has identified the need for direct input from SRL's in general and ESL speakers, the BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ community members and differently abled SRL's specifically.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

Increasing access to data and surveys that will permit greater input from SRL's while avoiding individual SRL's focus on the facts and outcomes in their own cases as had been experienced in the past.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

The focus on cross-subcommittee collaboration has yielded excellent input. Brainstorming collaborative projects during our retreat could reveal additional opportunities to select and staff initiatives impacting the work across subcommittees.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

From Co-Chair Samantha Malloy: "The Futures Subcommittee work has been incredibly rewarding as a practitioner. As my practice is focused entirely on SRL, the opportunity to participate in work impacting SRL's outside my practice is exciting and informative."

## **DATA SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Linda Hukari (Trial Court Administrator, Marion), Ryan Carty (Attorney, Marion)

**Current Members:** Hon. Matthew Donohue (Benton), Hon. Lauren Holland (Sr. Judge Lane), Hon. Maureen McKnight (Sr. Judge Multnomah), Stephanie Guerena (OJD, BFSD, statewide), Yousef Alouzi (JCIP, OJD, Statewide), John Grant (Attorney, Portland; *when available*), Rachel Woods (OJD, BFSD, statewide), Chris Hill (OJD, JFCPD, statewide), Nanci Thaemert, (OJD, JFCPD, statewide).

**Staff:** Bryan Marsh

### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

Our mission has continued to be focusing on performance measures, specifically post-judgment, and protective order data. Data entry consistency and accuracy. We have prioritized the data reports that can be obtained and developed from the Odyssey case management to provide information to OJD, our community partners, and the legislature to further the mission and goals of the OJD.

### **What are the subcommittee's top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

Our short-term priority has been to continue to discuss accuracy and consistency regarding data entry whenever possible with TCA's and court staff. The data analysts are continuing to work to have post-judgment data on the dashboard. Work continues to modify language on the post-judgment dashboard, so users understand the data.

### **What are the subcommittee's top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

We have a long list of data that we feel is important for the OJD and legislature going forward. We are also very interested in pulling facilitation program data and develop how can we capture the data we are interested, including was a facilitator contacted for assistance, if yes, at what stages of the case. Did having a facilitator by a party assist cases with statutory timelines as well as time to disposition. Several other projects include data on contempt proceedings, data on SRLs in post judgment work, and more specific data points on protective hearings and orders.

### **What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

The biggest challenge is training, consistency, and time. To have accurate data, court staff need to be trained and the trial courts need to be consistent in how the data entry is performed. If there is an issue with the data, the courts need to have the time to review and correct. One of the other challenges is the data analyst resources. Yousef Alouzi, our assigned data analyst, is busy and shares his duties not only with us.

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**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

We have discussed this specific issue often. We are currently still developing so many of the data points, it is very OJD staff dependent on the data analysts. Once we obtained solid data, we are comfortable sharing, it will be the important to add other members in different roles to then discuss the best way to present it to the legislature and community partners.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

We are always looking at how the data can assist us in determining how to provide access, and resources for self-represented litigants. This is one of the main reasons we are wanting the facilitator data, so all courts can have the resources they need to assist self-represented litigants.

**Given SFLAC's (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

Not at this time.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

Additional data analyst support would allow our projects to move forward more quickly.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

We do not have any suggestions.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

Linda's comments- I enjoy this sub-committee so much. The work that has been accomplished so far has been amazing. Yousef and previously Joseph really makes it happen. I am in awe of Ryan, John Grant, Judge McKnight who give their time to participate in this group.

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**GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Debra Dority (Oregon Law Center, Statewide)

**Members:** Stephen Adams (Mediator, Wallowa County), Colleen Carter-Cox (Program Coordinator, Lane County) Hon. Karrie McIntyre (Lane County)

**Staff Assigned:** none.

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2023?**

The focus of the Governance Subcommittee has been on creation of the SFLAC Handbook. The goal of the Handbook is to inform interested persons about the SFLAC, ensure better onboarding of future members, help ensure SFLAC's work and policies continue despite change in membership/leadership, and memorialize SFLAC's commitment to DEI work. The Governance

Subcommittee has provided two drafts to the SFLAC and has updated the Handbook based on feedback from the SFLAC as well as from OJD's Office of Engagement, Equity, and Inclusion.

The Governance Subcommittee continues to have the membership of the SFLAC and its subcommittees as a central priority.

**What are the subcommittee's top short-term priorities/projects (within the next year) and any expected dates for completion for ongoing projects?**

We are continuing to update the Handbook so that it reflects the work, goals and structure of the SFLAC. We will also continue to implement the DEI work we have started. The Governance Subcommittee has begun difficult conversations regarding term limits and succession planning. We are considering whether policies such as term limits will help to make space at the table for those communities whose voices have been unrepresented or underrepresented.

**What are the subcommittee's top long-term priorities/projects (within the next 5 years)?**

The Governance Subcommittee will continue to create and implement structures that will ensure there is no interruption in the important work being done when there is turnover in the membership and the leadership.

We will also continue to work on our commitment to DEI and in particular, with the guidance of the Chief Justice's 2024 Justice Campaign. The SFLAC supports successful family law policies, reforms and programs that serve **all** individuals and families who access Oregon's courts. We recognize we can do so only with a diverse membership so we continue our work to recruit and retain members who are encouraged Black, Indigenous, Latinx and persons of color; LGBTQIA2+ individuals; veterans; persons with disabilities; and persons from other traditionally underrepresented communities who may be interested in serving on the SFLAC.

**What are the challenges identified by your subcommittee in furthering your prioritized work, including any challenges for OJD in implementing your recommendations?**

Regarding our commitment to DEI, we have struggled to make meaningful connections with those diverse communities that will help the SFLAC support law policies, reforms and programs that serve all individuals and families who access Oregon's courts. The SFLAC is taking the DEI work we have done at the Committee to each of the subcommittees to ensure this work is also implemented there. In doing so, we hope to better engage such communities in the broader work of the SFLAC and improve the subcommittees work as a result.

**How is your subcommittee ensuring participation for voices in our community that may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

As discussed above, the Governance Subcommittee has been focusing on DEI in both membership recruitment, the work of the SFLAC, and of the subcommittees. The Governance committee has recently discussed succession planning and term limits in an effort to ensure we are making room at the table(s) for such voices and members.

The DEI work that we have been doing in the SFLAC, as well as in the subcommittees, will help us better understand the voices that are missing, and help us think creatively about ways to hear from such folks or communities when our regular group meetings and work may not be the best

fit. For example, we have discussed having presentations regarding marginalized or underrepresented groups at our meetings and have started this in 2024.

**As part of our ongoing mission of providing access to justice, does your subcommittee evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants within the framework of your projects?**

In working to become as diverse as those who access Oregon Courts, we attempt to assess the needs associated with the path of all litigants who must navigate the court system and identify way to bring those voices to the SFLAC, including and especially self-represented litigants.

**Given SFLAC's (and its subcommittees) commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families, is there a perspective, voice, or subject matter expertise that you believe is missing from the SFLAC or your subcommittee?**

Users of the family court system will bring important insight to the work we do at the SFLAC and within our subcommittees.

**What additional support would lend itself to improving the work of your subcommittee?**

We appreciate the work of Valerie and Shalini to pilot OJD's Equity Framework at the SFLAC and we hope they are able to continue their guidance of this process, particularly in furtherance of the Chief's latest Justice Campaign.

**Any suggestions for improved management or operation of the SFLAC at large?**

None.

**Any additional information you would like to share about your subcommittee experience:**

Not at this time.

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**FUTURE WORK OF THE SFLAC**

The SFLAC continues to diligently vet the work that is being done by the active subcommittees with the goal of providing useful and practical recommendations to the Oregon Judicial Department. Our work continues to significantly and positively shape family law policy for the State of Oregon to benefit the families who interact with the Court system. We have learned in recent years about what is possible when those dedicated to serving children and families within the court system think creatively. The future work of the SFLAC will include considering what advances in technology can best serve the family law programs and policies, including the effects of AI on court processes, how technology could be leveraged to improve court user experiences, how court connected mediation can achieve adequate funding and supports, and providing resources for families to navigate parenting plans. We continue to actively engage in the work necessary to improve the judicial system for all Oregon's families.

## **RESOURCES CREATED/UPDATED BY THE SFLAC**

### **CREATED MATERIALS:**

- [Birth Through Three-Considerations Checklist](#)
- [Birth Through Three-Parenting Plan Guide](#)
- [Birth Through Three-Espanol-Guia para Padres](#)
- [Birth Through Three-Training PowerPoint](#)
- [Guide to Divorce and Custody Trials in Oregon](#)
- [How to Serve Legal Papers in Family Law](#)
- [Mediation Attorney Guide](#)
- [Resist Refuse-Guide for Judges](#)
- [Resist Refuse-Parent Guide](#)
- [Supervised Parenting Time-Court Expectations](#)
- [Supervised Parenting Time-Model Order](#)
- [Parenting Plans for Young Children Ages Birth Through Three \(YouTube Video\)](#)
- [How to Find Legal Help on the Internet](#)
- [Stalking Law Benchbook – 2021](#)
- [2010 Guidelines: Qualifications for Appointment and Training of Parenting Coordinators, Custody Evaluators, and Parenting Time Supervisors 2010](#)
- [Custody and Parenting Time: Summary of Current Information and Research, March 2011](#)
- [Parenting Education: What Works Best?, March 2011](#)

### **UPDATED MATERIALS:**

- [Firearm Prohibitions for Protection Orders -2021](#)
- [Firearm Prohibitions for Misdemeanor Convictions-2021](#)
- [Family Abuse Prevention Act \(FAPA\) Benchbook-2024](#)

### **SFLAC CONFERENCE MATERIALS**

The materials from each of the SFLAC Conferences (nine Conferences since 1999), can be found here: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/sflac/pages/conference.aspx>

The materials and recordings for the 2023 SFLAC Family Law Conference can be found here: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/sflac/Conference%20Materials/FLC.23.Agenda.Program.pdf>

### **SFLAC FACILITATOR EDUCATION WEBINARS**

Recordings of Facilitator Meetings since 2022 are currently available on [SharePoint for Family Law Facilitators](#). A complete list of the videos available is provided below as the link will only work for OJD employees.

4/16/2024	New Facilitator Training
3/19/2024	Introducing Oregon Law Help
2/20/2024	Adaptive Technology and Gender Identity
11/21/2023	Building a Better Judgment

10/17/2023 Trial Preparation Part 2  
7/18/2023 Family Law Conference Debrief for Facilitators  
5/16/2023 Alternative Dispute Resolution; Mediation, Settlement Conferences, and  
Arbitration  
4/18/2023 Using Plain Language  
3/21/2023 Discovery with Samantha Malloy  
2/21/2023 Guidance on Determining Income  
1/17/2023 Department of Corrections and State Librarian  
12/13/2022 DOJ Division of Child Support: Paternity  
11/15/2022 Facilitator Listening Session  
10/25/2022 Facilitating Complicated Cases  
8/16/2022 Spousal Support  
7/20/2022 Dynamics of Domestic Violence, and Restraining Order Dashboards  
6/21/2022 OSB Referral and Information Services  
5/17/2022 211  
4/19/2022 WebEx Facilitation, Best Practices  
2/15/2022 Family Law Information Resources  
1/18/2022 IV-D Child Support

**SFLAC FACILITATOR CONFERENCE** September 22, 2022 (Bi-Annual Facilitator  
Training) Topics

ADA Accommodation & Interpreter Services  
Data Collection and Trends  
Child Support  
Document Review Best Practices  
Guide and File E-Forms  
Post Judgment Filings  
Trauma Informed Care

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