

# Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee Report Spring 2025

## Current 2025 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. Keith Raines (Sr. Judge) (Washington County Circuit Court)  
Stephen Adams (Mediator, Wallowa County)  
Laura Bisbee (Program Manager/Mediator, Family Resolution Services, Multnomah County)\*  
Colleen Carter-Cox (Program Manager, Greater Oregon Facilitation Initiative (GOFI), Family Court Assistance Office Lane County)  
Ryan Carty (Attorney, Marion County)  
Dr. Adam Furchner, Ph.D. (Psychologist, Portland)  
Linda Hukari (Trial Court Administrator, Marion County)  
Lauren Mac Neill (Attorney, Mediator, Psychotherapist, Multnomah County)  
Hannah Marchese, (Program Manager, So. Oregon Facilitation Initiative (SOFI), Jackson County)\*  
Kate Cooper Richardson (Director/Attorney – DOJ Oregon Child Support Program, Salem)  
Teala Sunderman, (Family Law Program Manager, Greater Oregon Facilitation Initiative (GOFI), Union County) \*  
Lonny Webb, (MSW/LCSW/private clinician, Clackamas County)\*

\*New members for 2025

## Members resigned 2024 or early 2025:

The Hon. Dawn McIntosh (Clatsop County Circuit Court)  
Samantha Malloy (Attorney, Jackson County)  
Angela Curtis (Trial Court Administrator, Deschutes County)

## OJD Staff Support:

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

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## **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 comprising judges, trial court administrators, mediators, psychologists/evaluators, attorneys, family court service providers, and representatives of various state agencies. All members have an interest in, and passion for family law policy and service to Oregon’s children and families and 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, organizes a bi-annual conference, 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 Oregon Judicial Department together with 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. Upon request of OJD, the SFLAC reviews family law proposed legislation to provide input, and, historically SFLAC members have provided informational meetings with legislators.

The Committee meets quarterly and has several subcommittees that meet more frequently to 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, custody evaluators, mental health treatment providers, and others). The SFLAC strives to be 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 who 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 that 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 LGBTQIA2S+.

The SFLAC quarterly meetings are open to the public. The 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. The 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 Committee based on their unique knowledge and skill 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 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 all-day meeting is in-person and serves as a retreat where the group engages in substantive SFLAC project planning. In odd-numbered years, when funding permits an SFLAC Conference, the March meeting is also in-person the afternoon of the second day of the conference. The location of the all-day retreat and the bi-annual SFLAC Conference 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 usually 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 pulls 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. The 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 2024:**

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

- 1) 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.*
- 2) 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.

- 3) Continuing internal education efforts and Annual Retreat: In September, the SFLAC met at the annual retreat and work session in Jackson County.
  - a. We toured Jackson County Courthouse and learned about the Southern Oregon Facilitation Initiative (SOFI). Hannah Marchese, SOFI Program Manager and one of the newest (2025) members of SFLAC, presented on SOFI's implementation and structure. SOFI provides information, assistance, and navigation to litigants in family law cases so that they can meaningfully participate in the court process. SOFI is available in Baker, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake and Malheur Counties.
  - b. Jackson County Judges Hoppe and Kochlacs presented on family law issues in Jackson County Courts.
  - c. Chris Hill, Child Support Program Analyst, presented on OJD's expanding the statewide Remote Child Support Court (RCSC), together with local court staff about the Parent Accountability & Engagement (PAE) program. As explained in their subcommittee report, the SFLAC Child Support Subcommittee tracked the progress of these programs with regular reports, discussion from the perspectives of the various members, and provided input to the administrators.
  - d. We focused on how best to match SFLAC's work to the OJD Justice Campaign, and continued with that theme throughout the rest of the quarterly SFLAC meeting.
- 4) Strengthening Organizational Structure and Enhancing Recruitment Efforts: The SFLAC Chair and SFLAC Vice Chair continues 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 subcommittees needs to be inclusive and have active outreach for membership, 3) providing a space for any concerns or need for support from the Chair and Vice Chair, 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 Committee. The currently active subcommittees are listed below with a summary statement regarding recently completed projects.

### **CHILD SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Kate Cooper Richardson (Director Oregon Child Support Program, DOJ), Shannon Richard (Asst. Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Recovery, 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), Katie Slattery (TCA, Crook/Jefferson), Jennifer Peckham (private attorney, Washington), Kristi Willits (Family Law Program Coord., Benton), Angie A. LaNier (Hearings Referee Remote Child Support Court/OJD, Jackson/Statewide). *Vacant positions:* private family law bar, family law supervisor, current family law Judge, public defender or defense bar representative.

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Hill (Child Support Analyst, OJD JFCP); administrative support provided by DOJ.

### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

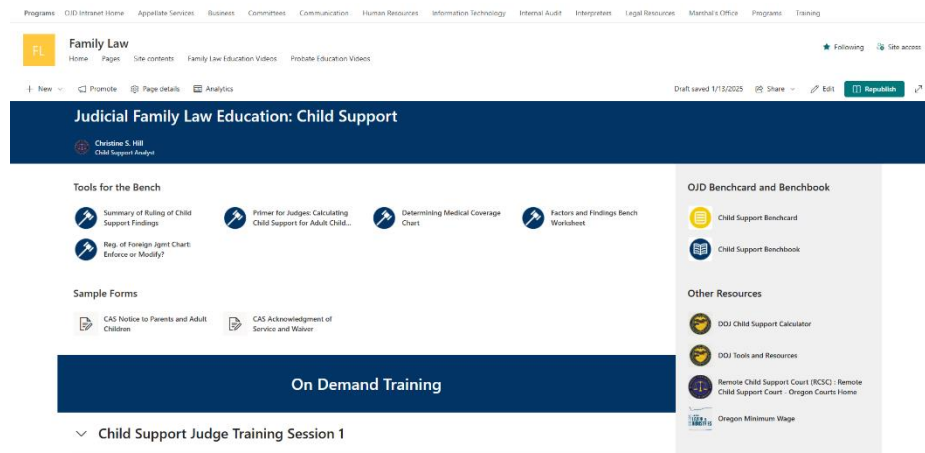
The Child Support Subcommittee meets bi-monthly. Four focus areas have been (1) expanding subcommittee membership, (2) providing subject-matter expertise to the development of OJD's expanding Remote Child Support Court and now also the Parent Accountability & Experience (PAE) program for child support litigants, (3) developing and delivering child support education to those working in the court system, including judges, and (4) identifying particular recommendations for the full SFLAC's consideration and recommendation.

The subcommittee expanded its membership to include a member of the private family law bar and anticipates soon adding a member of the defense bar as well.

The Remote Child Support Court (RCSC) significantly expanded as other county courts opted in 2024, and the subcommittee tracked this progress with regular reports, discussion from the perspectives of the various members, and provided input to the administrators as well. The newest child support referee also joined the July subcommittee meeting. The PAE program launched in April 2024, which "rides along" the RCSC as a deferred sentencing program, and the subcommittee receives regular reports on this development. The subcommittee supported an informational training by the RCSC and PAE program for all managers in the DOJ Division of Child Support.

In 2024, OJD's Juvenile & Family Court Program Division hired a full-time statewide facilitator dedicated to child support. The subcommittee met the child support facilitator (a former DOJ child support employee), who works closely with other facilitators, court staff, and the RCSC as well. This facilitator, along with JFCPD's child support analyst, are helpful resources for the subcommittee.

As to the focus on child support education, in January 2024, the subcommittee completed the last in a series of three webinars for sitting judges on child support issues with practical tips, the third focusing on modifications and medical support. The videos of the presentations remain available to judges on the Family Law Judicial Training SharePoint page, along with other materials coordinated by the subcommittee, such as a Child Attending School primer and bench tools. This effort is leading the way for OJD in piloting a practical page for judges to use right from the bench.



Another 2024 priority was to assist in putting together a hands-on child support session for OJD

Family Law Facilitator Conference in late September 2024. The session focused on small groups working with experienced child support case managers to work through child support-related scenarios and calculations with facilitators.

The subcommittee also agreed to develop a plenary session on child support for the SFLAC Family Law Conference in March 2025. The subcommittee recommended specific topics and approaches for the target audiences, and a workgroup developed a presentation, with assistance from some DOJ policy analysts. Subcommittee members also supported DOJ in offering an incarcerated re-entry simulation breakout session. (The conference just completed at the date of this report; will report out in the 2025 report.)

The subcommittee made two recommendations to the full SFLAC for consideration at its December meeting related to certain statewide forms. One recommendation was a form for *De Novo appeal to the circuit court pursuant to ORS 25.513(6)*. The form exists on the DOJ website, but the subcommittee recommended to the SFLAC that the form become an OJD statewide form for use by all the counties. The SFLAC approved the recommendation. The other form the subcommittee recommended was a self-help *Spousal Support Income Withholding*. A workgroup of the subcommittee had developed the form last year after the prior legislative session when the Oregon Child Support Program reduced the scope of its spousal support assistance due to federal limitations. The SFLAC recognized the value of the form for OJD and asked the subcommittee to refine the request and consider whether it should be offered as a packet (e.g., is an objection form appropriate?). The subcommittee will return the recommendation to the full SFLAC in 2025, with input from the other SFLAC subcommittees as well.



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

Besides the spousal support form(s) just referenced, 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. Because the child support arena within OJD and courts is growing—Multnomah County is adding a half-time child support referee in 2025 and more counties are coming onboard with the RCSC—the subcommittee's expertise, feedback, and support are crucial to its success. One potential support may be development of bench cards for child support referees or other tools. Another priority effort underway is targeted paternity/parentage judicial training(s), with the goal of completing in 2025.

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

The subcommittee has identified the development and establishment of child support-specific education and CLEs for target audiences, especially the bench, family court facilitators, and trial court administrators. Another priority is development of assistance materials (including videos) for self-represented child support parties navigating the judicial process. Last, the subcommittee is exploring 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 significant or specific barriers or challenges to date, other than noting that some implementations (e.g., form changes) can take longer than desirable. The expansion of expertise, programmatic offerings, and presence within OJD has diminished any potential barriers and has provided 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, and it will continue to do so. Because a large majority of child support parties are self-represented—and for some persons it may be their only encounter with the judicial system—the needs of self-represented parties remain foremost in the subcommittee's commitment to education efforts and in its recommendations.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

The subcommittee was able to add two members to its membership in 2024, a TCA with child support background and experience, and a member of the private family law bar whose practice

includes child support matters. Adding a public defender or private member of the defense bar has proven difficult, but the subcommittee has identified a potential member to join soon.

The subcommittee is 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). Specifically, the subcommittee may leverage the lessons from the success of the Oregon Child Support Program bringing participants with lived experience to its quadrennial Guidelines Advisory Committee.

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

We have welcomed the counsel and support of the SFLAC chair and vice-chair and have incorporated that into the subcommittee approach and practice.

**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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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Debra Dority (Oregon Law Center, Statewide) and Amy Benedum (JFCPD, OJD, Statewide)

**Members:** Hon. Patricia McGuire (Multnomah), Hon Jennifer Gardiner (Marion) Jenny Woodson (Domestic/Sexual Violence Program, DHS, Child Welfare), Diana Fleming (CVSSD, DOJ), , Sarah Sabri (Sr. Asst Attorney, DOJ), Emily Brown-Sitnick (Legal Aid Services of Oregon – Multnomah, Clackamas, Hood River, Sherman and Wasco), Kathryn Moakley (University of Oregon DV Clinic Supervisor), Lonny R. Webb, MSW, LCSW (private clinician, Clackamas), Lizbeth Manriquez (Bilingual Co-located DV Advocate, Center for Hope and Safety, Marion). \*Hon. Maureen McKnight (Senior Judge, Multnomah County) and Dr. Sheldon Levy (OHSU Dept. of Family Medicine) included as *interested persons*.

**Staff Assigned:** Amy Benedum (JFCPD)

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

Over 2024, the DV Subcommittee lost three members: co-chair Samantha Malloy, attorney, Katie Haslinger, advocate, and Judge Dawn McIntosh. In 2024 the DV Sub did some targeted recruitment and saw two new additions- Lizbeth Manriquez, a bilingual DV Advocate, and the return of Judge Jennifer Gardiner, Marion County. In addition, long-time DV Sub member and excellent resource, Amy Benedum, agreed to replace Samantha as co-chair. Recruitment for members continues to be a priority for the Subcommittee moving into 2025, and one focus will be adding a family court facilitator or TCA.

In 2024, the DV Subcommittee anticipated working extensively with the Parental Involvement and Outreach Subcommittee's on a Safety-Focused Parenting Plan guide. The project became more complex than originally anticipated, and work was not able to be completed on the draft in 2024. This will be a continuing project for the DV Sub in 2025.

The DV Sub collaborated with the Mediation Sub to work on the issue of effective, trauma-informed domestic violence screening in domestic relations mediation. This led to a presentation from Subcommittee member Kathryn Moakley at the bi-annual SFLAC Conference in March 2025. Members of both Subcommittees have formed a workgroup to create a screening tool and protocol for court-connected mediators, which will be taken to the SFLAC for approval once completed.

**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 continue our work with the PIOS Subcommittee in the joint workgroup to create a guide for safety-focused parenting plans. The anticipated date for the guide to be published is summer 2025.

The DV Sub will continue the partnership with the Mediation Subcommittee to develop resources for mediators both in terms of screening and identification of DV dynamics, proposed a plan for courts to comply with ORS 107.755(1)(d), and offer trainings for best practices in mediation where DV dynamics are a concern in the case. These resources are anticipated to be published in 2025 with training(s) available at the time the materials are disbursed.

The DV Subcommittee is exploring ways to identify categories of data to collect about DV outcomes. Currently the DV Subcommittee has gathered preliminary data on protection orders from OJD's data team and will be looking at data trends for initial ex parte protection order petitions being denied. The DV Sub anticipates publishing a white paper or similar based on the data with recommendations to the Chief Justice.

**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.
- Possibly updating the Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act (EPPDAPA) Bench Book and ensuring the FAPA and Stalking Bench Books remain updated.
- 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, as laws change.
- Evaluate data related to domestic violence for system improvements
- Collaborate with other subcommittees and partners on issues with a DV component.

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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 challenge this year was the loss of several Subcommittee members, which puts a pause on some of our projects. While we were not able to complete either of these projects in 2024, the work is ongoing and the desired materials will be created.

**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-subcommittee 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, the DV sub is interested in getting input from the batterer intervention professionals which can broaden the input of respondents in DV cases.

The DV Subcommittee has also broadened our membership to include a bilingual domestic violence advocate who works with Latina/o survivors, bringing a needed perspective to the work of the subcommittee.

**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 Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee 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 (OJD Alternate Dispute Resolution) and Laura Bisbee (Multnomah County Family Resolution 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 (Attorney, Mediator, Psychotherapist, Multnomah County)

**Staff Assigned:** Amy Benedum, JFCP

#### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

The focus of the SFLAC Mediation Subcommittee is (1) to ensure that all family law litigants have access to court-connected mediation services; (2) to assist them in understanding and coming to agreement about issues between them; (3) to inform and support the OJD and mediation services statewide about best practices and innovative programs; and (4) to make recommendations to ensure adequate funding for robust services.

Throughout 2024, our goals included:

- Exploring membership needs and recruitment approaches
- Identifying projects that would be of value for mediators and stakeholders across Oregon.
- Working with the SFLAC Domestic Violence Subcommittee to review and recommend screening procedures/best practice recommendations for mediators
- Exploring a joint project with the PIOS subcommittee or otherwise support the work of the PIOS subcommittee (if they are interested in leading the project) to make practice recommendations to help ensure access across Oregon to high-quality parent education programs under ORS 3.425.
- Participating on various workgroups involved in updating and revising UTCR Chapter 12 (for several subcommittee members).
- Continuing to offer recommendations to SFLAC and the OJD regarding statewide domestic relations mediation funding and data needs and strategies.

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

- Provide feedback and recommendations regarding the roll out of the new Odyssey code (for when mediation does not occur) and trainings for mediators and court staff to enhance the quality of mediation data collected. June 2025

- Present a session at the SFLAC Family Law Conference in collaboration with the DV Subcommittee entitled: Mediation & Domestic Violence: Effective Strategies for ensuring safety, self-determination, and trauma-informed care in mediation involving domestic violence. March 6 and 7, 2025
- Develop best practice guidelines for mediators to ensure compliance with ORS 107.755 which requires all mediation cases are screened for domestic violence. June 2025
- Selection of a new Co-Chair to help guide and support the work of the subcommittee. July 2025
- Develop recommendations for mediators and courts regarding best practices
- surrounding the sharing of mediation agreements between mediators, parties, and courts. February 2026.

**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 more understanding of the challenges and barriers experienced at the local level.

If POP 129 is not funded during the legislative session, current mediation funding limitations will limit the SFLAC Mediation Subcommittee's efforts to continue to develop/make recommendations to OJD due to limited capacity of subcommittee members. Furthermore, the funding limitations will limit OJD's ability to implement the SFLAC Mediation Subcommittee's recommendations, in part because courts and mediators will need to dedicate time and efforts to strategize how to operate with constrained funding mediation services (instead of being able to dedicate time and energy to implement practice recommendations/improvements).

**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 Mediation Subcommittee's efforts to make funding recommendations (including for SB 97 and POP 129) and data recommendations have been guided by efforts to ensure there are enough mediation services available to meet the needs of self-represented litigants across Oregon. Two upcoming subcommittee "tips sheet" projects (for DV Screening and for mediation agreement sharing recommendations) are guided by efforts to provide access to justice, especially for self-represented litigants.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

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 continues to be an area of focus for the subcommittee.

**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?**

Not at this time.

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

Not at this time.

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## **PARENTAL OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE (PIOS)**

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

**Members:** Hon. Sean Armstrong (Marion County), Hon. Dawn McIntosh (Clatsop County), Hon. Sara Collins (Jackson County), Scott Leibenguth (Attorney, Portland), Robin Stedfeld (Mediator, Union County), Judith Swinney (Parenting Supervisor/Education, Portland), Tracey Vogeltanz (Multnomah County Family Court), Dr. Wendy Bourg, Ph.D. (Psychologist, Portland), Kathleen Zumpano (Child Specialist, Portland)

**Staff Assigned:** Amy Benedum and Bryan Marsh, JFCPD

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

PIOS has spent the past year focused on providing an update to the currently available Safety Focused Parenting Plan. This has been a major task, requiring research, discussion, and several rewrites. It has been made possible with the help of the Domestic Violence Subcommittee, and the hard work of our members.

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

### **Safety Focused Parenting Plan Guide (SFPPG)**

The Subcommittee's short-term goal is to complete the Safety Focused Parenting Plan materials. Our goal with these materials is to provide information to individuals who are concerned that

they may need a safety focused parenting plan but who need information about the areas of concerns that they might address in the plan, the scope of the plan, and specific provisions that it might be appropriate to include in mediated parenting time agreements and court-ordered parenting plans to help enhance child safety.

This project started out with a focus on intimate partner violence specifically, however the more our Subcommittee discussed it, the more we thought that a guide that also addressed other common safety threats would be useful. We thus expanded the guide to address other safety threat domains.

PIOS recently produced a lengthy draft of our Guide for review by the DV Subcommittee and other SFLAC subcommittees for input and guidance.

PIOS members Dr. Wendy Bourg, Judge Sean Armstrong, Kathleen Zumpano and Judge Holmes Hehn presented on a panel about PIOS work and products at the recent SFLAC Family Law Conference in Seaside, Oregon (March 2025). The presenters spent much of the session in a dialogue with the participants about what types of safety threats they feel we should include in a safety focused parenting plan guide. The session attendees had a lot of ideas. PIOS has not yet met to discuss whether we should expand our guide to include other types of threats or should expand our current safety threat domains to add elements that are not included.

The attendees at the conference expressed strong support for a section (or more likely a stand-alone guide) on reducing conflict in co-parenting relationships. PIOS agrees this is a significant issue in many, if not most, of the custody and parenting time cases we see in court, and that coparent conflict presents a threat to the wellbeing of children. No doubt there are many resources already available about high conflict coparenting relationships and how to reduce conflict. However, having some tips and some draft parenting plan provisions in one place easily accessible to self-represented litigants would likely be very useful. We have not yet discussed this project in detail, but plan to do so at our next meeting.

We imagine that there will be additional work needed when the SFPPG and related materials are ready for publication, as they will require translation into various forms for distribution. This might include online web forms, paper PDF handouts, and/or educational videos and webinars. More long term, it is clear that the available standard parenting plan materials will also need revision as they are translated to the updated webforms. This transition is currently in process and will require the input of our Subcommittee to ensure that the final materials reflect current research and best practices.

### **Parent Education**

On the list of projects for PIOS has been doing an inventory of, and making recommendations about, parent education in Oregon domestic relations cases. Given our focus on the SFPPG, PIOS has made limited progress as yet towards this goal. Nancy Thaemert recently asked PIOS to review and comment on a high conflict co-parenting educational program called “FIT.” The [\*Families in Transition \(“FIT”\) course\*](#) is an online parenting education program for parties experiencing high conflict, developed with funding from the State Justice Institute. PIOS hopes



to review this product soon and make recommendations about whether we feel this would be useful to families in Oregon.

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

Several projects and topics have been suggested for PIOS to take on. An important issue that we might address in the next 5 years relates to *how* we deliver our information. The delivery systems for both current and past projects should be reviewed and updated, as the parent population increasingly looks to online and social media platforms to access information.

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

As discussed above, one challenge we face is translating complex, nuanced, sometimes dense materials into attractive, accessible, and easily digestible chunks ready for public consumption. We hope to enlist the help of specialists who work in a range of fields, including digital marketing, web-based communications, and social media optimization, so that we can learn how to better serve those who expect information to be available on a range of digital platforms. We recognize that there may be a need for multiple delivery systems for our materials as we strive to reach clients from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, geographical and demographic backgrounds.

**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 primary mission of PIOS is to prioritize service to self-represented litigants in our materials and educational efforts, although we hope and intend that our “products” will also be useful to family law professionals such as attorneys, judges, mediators and others.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

PIOS continues to discuss adding members from a range of backgrounds. We routinely invite prospective members to attend our meetings and often discuss adding members who can bring different perspectives to the discussion. Currently we would like to add diversity to the voices at our table but have not had much success so far in achieving that goal. At the recent Family Law Conference, we asked for volunteers from the attendee group to join PIOS and had several responses, which we will be vetting.

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

JFCPD has been incredibly helpful to our subcommittee! Amy Benedum and Bryan Marsh are always responsive and supportive. No additional support is needed, unless it might be to help recruit more diverse members for PIOS.

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

None! We are very lucky to have the SFLAC in our State and are grateful for Judge McIntyre's skilled and thoughtful leadership.

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

PIOS is an active, busy, productive workgroup. We members enjoy and respect one another very much and look forward to carrying our partnership forward indefinitely!

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**GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

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

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

**Staff Assigned:** None.

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

The Governance Subcommittee focused on membership and infrastructure. We continued to work on implementing structures to support the SFLAC regardless of changes in membership and leadership. We worked on materials to incorporate into the SFLAC Handbook, including creation of a mentorship program, and began work on procedures for exit interview for those leaving the SFLAC. We lost two SFLAC members in 2024, Judge Dawn McIntosh and private attorney Samantha Malloy, as well as one member in early 2025, Deschutes TCA Angie Curtis. We, therefore, considered, interviewed and vetted three potential new members: Lonny Webb, MSW, LCSW; Laura Bisbee, Program Manager/Mediator, Multnomah County Family Resolution Services; Hannah Marchese SOFI Program Manager, Jackson County Circuit Court; and Teala Sunderman Family Law Program Manager/Civil Dept. Lead, Union County Circuit Court. The SFLAC approved recommending that Chief Justice Flynn appoint these four individuals to the SFLAC.

We have also been focusing on succession planning for 2026, as Judge Karrie McIntyre will be stepping down as Chair of the SFLAC.

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

The top priority is succession planning for the Chair position to ensure a smooth transition when Judge McIntyre steps down as Chair at the end of 2025.

We are also finalizing work on exit interview questions for those leaving the SFLAC to obtain feedback to improve the work and infrastructure of the committee. A draft has been approved by our subcommittee and will be shared with the SFLAC soon.

We are also creating a mentorship program within the SFLAC to support new members. The mentorship program will be designed to encourage the engagement of new members right away and provide a place for new members to ask questions and have regular 'check-ins' with a mentor. Our hope is to have scaffolding of this mentorship program before our Fall SFLAC Retreat to obtain feedback there.

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

The Governance Subcommittee will continue to focus on membership and infrastructure to 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 our commitment to a diverse committee that supports all individuals and families who access Oregon courts, as discussed further below.

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

Though it has been a priority over the past few years, 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. We will continue the work to better engage such communities in the broader work of the SFLAC and improve the subcommittees work as a result.

**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?**

Our top responsibility is to support the membership of the SFLAC and the subcommittees, and by doing so, ensure that the perspective of self-represented litigants are included in the membership.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

We will continue to work on our commitment to DEI particularly, with the guidance of the Chief Justice's 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 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. In 2024, we began having presentations regarding marginalized or underrepresented groups at our meetings, and one such presentation became a presentation at our 2025 SFLAC Conference. We hope to continue such presentations in 2025.

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

None at this time.

**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.

## **FUTURES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Ryan Carty (Attorney, Marion), For 2024 Samantha Malloy (Attorney Now Resigned)

**Current Members:** Stephen Adams (Retired Attorney Mediator, Wallowa County), Colleen Carter Cox (Program Manager, Greater Oregon Facilitation Initiative, and Family Court Assistance Office, Lane County), Linda Hukari (Trial Court Administer, Marion County), William Howe (Attorney, Portland), John Grant (Attorney, Portland), Sr. Judge Maureen McKnight (Retired OJD, Multnomah), Shawn Menashe (Attorney, Multnomah), Christine Hill (OJD, JFCPD, OSCA), Nanci Thaemert (Director JFCPD, OJD), Hon. Jacqueline Alarcon (Multnomah), Angela Laidlaw (Attorney, Clackamas), Jennifer Peckham (Attorney, Portland).

**Staff Assigned:** Bryan Marsh, JFCPD/OJD

### **What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

The Futures Subcommittee focused on generative artificial intelligence (AI) throughout the first half of 2024 at the request of the Chief Justice. Specifically, the Subcommittee addressed three categories of inquiry:

1. Ways to use generative AI to enhance access to justice in the family law system;
2. Ways to use generative AI as a tool to improve the delivery of legal services in the family law system; and
3. Safeguards to be put in place for generative AI use.

The Futures Subcommittee conducted a robust analysis of generative AI, including a review of nationwide best practices. The Futures Subcommittee's work concluded with the release of a memo re: Proposed Recommendations to OJD for Generative AI in June 2024. The SFLAC adopted the Futures Subcommittee's recommendations during its meeting on September 6, 2024. SFLAC Chair Hon. Karrie McIntyre and Vice-Chair Debra Dority presented the recommendations to the Chief Justice for consideration.

The second half of the year saw the Futures Subcommittee turn its attention to barriers to court resources and how to improve outcomes to court customers through better communication and information. This project continued through the end of 2024 and into 2025, with the Futures Subcommittee working on a proposed statewide Guide to Oregon Family Court Appearances. Of particular assistance on this project was a presentation from Shelly Tillman, Family Court Facilitator from the Clackamas County Circuit Court, in which she shared details of the Clackamas County Circuit Court's pilot program of status checks for self-represented litigants (i.e., court customers). Throughout the year, the Futures Subcommittee continued monitoring and supporting OJD's statewide rollout of the Online Legal Notices Posting page.

### **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 and projects include:

- Completion of the Futures Subcommittee's work on a proposed statewide Guide to Oregon Family Court Appearances. Expected date of completion is August 2025.

- Monitoring statewide efforts to ensure individuals who need to appear in court (e.g., parties, witnesses, etc.) can do so without fear of reprisals. This includes individuals who may have valuable information to provide the court but are concerned with their immigration status. It is critical to the administration of justice that people with information about ongoing litigation are able to appear in court. The Futures Subcommittee will report any recommendations from this ongoing monitoring project to the SFLAC. Expected date of completion is TBD.

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

- Continue promoting systems reducing barriers to justice (e.g., improvement and expansion of court websites as repositories for court customers including information on how to interface with the court).
- Continue assessing and supporting efforts to appropriately integrate AI into court processes in appropriate channels (e.g., summarizing pleadings, pulling information out of court forms, chatbots on court self-help websites, etc.).
- Promoting a pilot program allowing litigants to self-schedule court appearances such as status conferences in an effort to reduce missed court dates, need for courts to reschedule, defaults taken and later set aside for failure to appear on minor court proceedings, etc.
- Identify case-type specific triage that will target and streamline processes to provide early and frequent interventions to 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 examining 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 unbundled legal services by attorneys and enhanced access to courts.

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

It is challenging for the Futures Subcommittee to avoid duplicating efforts of other similar organizations such as various subcommittees operating under the Oregon State Bar or within the Oregon Judicial Department. We strive to avoid inconsistent or superfluous initiatives and recommendations.

Because much of the work the Futures Subcommittee undertakes relates to technological advances, keeping pace with technology remains an ongoing challenge.

The Futures Subcommittee continues to work to prioritize diversity, engagement, equity, and inclusion on Subcommittee projects, but is challenged in doing so due to demand upon Subcommittee members of time, energy, and expertise.

**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. Self-represented litigants' needs remain a top priority for the Futures Subcommittee. We regularly assess the work courts and other legal bodies are doing to support how self-represented litigants navigate court systems. We regularly hear from individuals who work directly with self-represented litigants, including Family Law Facilitators, attorneys offering unbundled legal services,

nonprofit organizations catering to self-represented litigants (e.g., the Commons Law Center in Portland), the Southern Oregon Facilitation Initiative (SOFI), etc.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

As reflected in the previous response, the Futures Subcommittee actively seeks input from individuals and groups working directly with self-represented litigants. Those voices can share information that comes directly from families engaged within the Oregon court system and legal framework.

An example of a presently marginalized group are individuals who should (or must) appear in court but face immigration issues. We are actively seeking input from and about those individuals so we can better understand their challenges and how courts can facilitate the necessary task of ensuring their participation in court processes.

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

Increasing access to data. The data dashboards available to judges and Trial Court Administrators are inaccessible to most members of the Futures Subcommittee. The Futures Subcommittee regularly has conversations about case flow, timely disposition, cases involving attorneys vs self-represented litigants, etc. These conversations often occur ad hoc, and having access to real-time data would better facilitate those conversations.

Help identifying additional subcommittee members – particularly among court staff and the judiciary.

**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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## **DATA SUBCOMMITTEE**

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

**Current Members:** Hon. Matthew Donohue (Benton County), Sr. Judge Maureen McKnight (Retired, OJD Multnomah), Stephanie Guerena (OJD, BFSO, statewide), Yousef Alouzi (BFSO-OJD, statewide), John Grant (Attorney, Portland; *when available*), Rachel Woods (BFSO-OJD, statewide), Chris Hill (JFCP-OJD, statewide), Nanci Thaemert (JFCP-OJD, statewide).

**Staff:** Bryan Marsh

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

Our mission has continued to focus on performance measures, specifically post-judgment, and protective order data, and data entry consistency and accuracy. We have prioritized the data reports that can be obtained and developed from the Odyssey case management system 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 toward 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 developing how can we capture the data we are interested, including whether a facilitator was contacted for assistance, and 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. We are currently looking at immediate danger data. It is clear from the information, that the courts are inconsistent in how data is entered, and how attorneys and/or parties are naming the document at time of filing, e.g. motion vs motion for immediate danger. The data does not make sense, so the subcommittee is working on suggestions on how to obtain clear and accurate data. Linda plans to have a discussion at the upcoming TCA meeting. Also, Ryan suggested getting information to the bar on how the document should be filed.

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

The biggest challenges are 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. We do have a new data analyst working with Yousef, but again we share with their other duties.

**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, and it is very dependent on OJD staff data analysts. Once we obtain 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:**

We are always interested in any data suggestions from others that may assist us in forwarding OJD's mission.

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## **EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chairs:** Colleen Carter-Cox (Program Manager, 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), Nanci Thaemert (Supervisor JFCPD, OJD), Tracye Cardoza (Program Coordinator/Family Law Facilitator, Klamath/Lake Counties), Maxine Tuan (private lawyer, Multnomah County), Marilee Aldred (Trial Court Administrator, Malheur) and Teala Sunderman (Family Law Program Manager, Union), Bryan Marsh (Legal Policy Advisor, OJD, Statewide).

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

**What has been the goal/focus of the subcommittee in 2024?**

- Maintaining strong membership and expanding diversity
- Subcommittee restructure
- Planning and implementing the [Statewide Facilitator Conference](#)
- Completion of [How to Find Legal Help on the Internet](#)– AI warnings flyer

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

- Plan and implement [SFLAC Family Law Conference](#), March 6-7, 2025
- Provide educational materials for litigants and training materials for staff re LPs
- Support local courts with family law education and training
- Update [Trial Preparation Pamphlet](#)

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

- Host bi-annual Family Law Conference in 2027 and 2029



- Continue to support JFCPD Facilitator Workgroup
- Expand educational resources for self-represented litigants

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

The challenges remain consistent to those of past years including managing limited staff time and budget/resources to focus on expanding training materials and education; and adequately addressing the diverse economic, political, and procedural needs of Oregon's judicial districts. Limited staff time impacts feedback and participation for subcommittee projects. OJD must also continue the emphasis on improving communication or awareness of projects between committees and workgroups within the legal community.

The time it takes to plan and host a statewide training often consumes the majority of the meeting time and staff commitment and other ideas and projects can get sent to the back burner. Our recent subcommittee restructure with moving the facilitator workgroup to JFCPD, will free time in the alternating years.

**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 subcommittee has an ongoing commitment to provide and improve access to justice for self-represented litigants. The subcommittee strives to identify gaps in materials, education and training for both litigants and the court staff who provide the customer service. We continually assess the need for meaningful materials for both the public and staff in addition to coordinating training opportunities for staff to address these needs.

**The SFLAC and its subcommittees have been working on our commitment to supporting a family law system that serves all families. What specific steps is your subcommittee taking toward this goal, including identifying and including perspectives, voices or subject matter experts that have been marginalized or underrepresented in the work of the SFLAC?**

The SFLAC Education Subcommittee works continually to identify, include, and collaborate with the interested parties from statewide agencies in our work. We value opinions and feedback from many different sources including, judges, trial court administrators, mediators, psychologists/evaluators, attorneys, family court service providers, and representatives from our agency partners. But most importantly, we strive to uphold the voice of the litigant. We call to action our partners on the ground, who work directly with customers to provide valuable feedback and insight. Specifically speaking our largest network of supporters/contributors comes from our work on the SFLAC Family Law Conference. Together by partnering with these voices we help build a platform to increase access and justice for all Oregon families.

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

As we build our membership and grow with Oregon's demands it would be beneficial if we had a designated budget to work with for creating educational materials.

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

It might be fruitful for the Subcommittee chairs to have some time to meet, coordinate projects and share information. Perhaps in conjunction with the annual retreat. The only other time that some of them are together is at the quarterly meetings however, some co-chairs are not SFLAC

members. The Subcommittees supposed to vet projects with the other subcommittees however the feedback rate could improve. If there were improved rapport and connection among subcommittee chairs, this might increase feedback and improve other efficiencies and subcommittee projects.

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

It is fulfilling to provide education to our coworkers and colleagues and to be a part of developing materials that improve access and information to our litigants. The opportunity that subcommittee involvement affords for collaboration and learning about new perspectives is invaluable. My observations are that we frequently tap a lot of the same people who are reliable to be strong participators and return a high-quality work product. I worry that some of these people will burn out and it is a struggle sometimes to find people in a community of busy professionals who can consistently attend meetings and respond to requests for feedback and assistance.

**FUTURE WORK OF THE SFLAC**

The SFLAC continues to positively shape family law policy for the State of Oregon to benefit the families who interact with the Court system by providing useful and practical recommendations to the Oregon Judicial Department. The future work of the SFLAC will include efforts to maintain and improve the quality of the experience for litigants in Oregon's family law courts from their initial court filing through their court connected parent education, and mediation, until the final resolution of their matters. This includes making recommendations on how courts can leverage adequate funding and supports to provide resources for families to navigate their court experience. We continue to explore ways to successfully educate judges and court staff in the complex arena of family law including, effects of conflict on children, domestic violence, trauma informed court rooms, child support, procedural fairness, and safety planning for children and families.

**RESOURCES CREATED or UPDATES**  
**BY THE SFLAC and SFLAC SUBCOMMITTEES:**

**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](#)
- [Stalking Law Benchbook](#) – 2021
- [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](#)
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- [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 can be found here:

<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/sflac/pages/conference.aspx>

The materials for the 2025 SFLAC Family Law Conference can be found here:

<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/sflac/pages/conference.aspx>

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