

**Minutes**  
**Connecticut Judicial Branch Juror Data Analysis**  
**Committee February 26, 2024**  
**2:00 p.m.**

The meeting was also available for live streaming on the Judicial Branch YouTube Channel.

**Members in attendance:** Hon. Peter L. Brown (Co-Chair), Hon. Kimberly A. Knox (Co-Chair), Atty. John E. Barney, Jr., Director Troy M. Brown, Director Joseph P. Greelish, Hon. Robin L. Wilson

**Also in attendance:** Ms. Melissa Farley, Ms. Nichole DiBenedetto

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Committee members introduced themselves beginning with Judge Kimberly A. Knox, Co-Chair.
  
- II. **Review of the Committee Charge:** Judge Brown called upon Judge Knox to review the charge of the committee from Justice Robinson. The charge of the committee is to review the demographic data that is being collected, to prioritize which data should be analyzed, to compare the demographics of jurors to an appropriate source of demographic data such as the US Census Bureau or any other source that the committee deems to be appropriate, undertake an exhaustive review of the data collection practices in other states, and to issue a report to the Chief Justice on or before October 1, 2024 summarizing the data analysis.
  
- III. **Discussion of Committee Responsibilities Regarding the Collection of Data:**
  - A. **Juror Demographic Data that is Currently Being Collected:** Director Greelish presented an overview of the demographic data currently being collected on jurors and the process by which the data is collected. An example of the Confidential Juror Questionnaire that summoned jurors complete to self-report their demographic information prior to arriving at voir dire was shown. Demographic information collected includes date of birth, residency and citizenship status, education level, race/ethnicity, and gender. A limitation of this electronic form, the inability to select more than one race, was brought to the attention of the committee. An example of the Jury Activity Report which is completed on the day of voir dire by jurors assigned to a panel was also shown. This form allows staff to record the path a juror takes to be selected. It captures information on challenges for cause, peremptory challenges and Batson challenges. It also records if a juror was excused due to hardship or conflict. Director Greelish notified the committee that the order of this questionnaire was still being worked on to better collect individual demographics.

Prior to meeting with the Chief Justice, the Judicial Branch Statistics Unit focused on race in their data analysis. They looked at the demographic information collected 11/1/2022 – 10/31/2023, although during this time not all courthouses were operational. Mr. Greelish presented a preliminary analysis breakdown by race and gender for each type of challenge, selection of jurors, alternate jurors, and jurors who were excused. Director Greelish will provide all committee members with a copy of this preliminary analysis. He informed the committee that several other elements of captured data sets are available for analysis once the committee decides on a

direction.

The committee discussed a lack of demographic data collection from jurors who are summoned but do not appear for voir dire. There is a limitation to the data of this larger pool of people due to the self-reporting aspect of the data collection. The committee would like to look into data on the percentage of summons that are responded to and the zip codes of summons and resummmons.

Going forward, Judge Knox would like the committee to decide what demographics the committee wants to look at, how the committee should prioritize what data is analyzed, and what the scope of the committee's charge is in what data should be looked at.

- B. **U.S. Census Bureau Data:** Judge Knox called on the committee for recommendations of other appropriate sources of data for comparison. Director Brown recommended looking into town demographic data collected for school systems as a source for comparison and cross reference, especially within zip codes. Judge Knox requested committee members Hon. Wilson and Director Brown make inquiry of potential additional demographic data sources.
- C. **Data Collection Practices in Other States:** Director Greelish informed the committee that information on other state's practices is collected by the National Center for State Courts. According to the National Center for State Courts, the CT Judicial Branch is ahead of the other states on data collection. The National Center for State Courts is looking forward to seeing how the Judicial Branch analyzes the collected data and makes that data actionable. Maricopa County did produce a one-time report on demographics however, the CT legislation would like an annual report. According to the National Center the US Census Bureau is the gold standard for a comparison source of demographics.

IV. **Future Meeting Dates:** The committee will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 3:00 p.m.

V. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.