

AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY
Report of the Standing Committee On Judicial Administration

December 5, 2019

Members: Lisa Ginoza and Ted N. Pettit (co-chairs), Anton Krucky, David Louie, Rodney Maile, Pat Mau-Shimizu, Kenneth Mansfield, Randy Perreira, and Troy Andrade.¹

In 2019, this committee met on March 12, July 29, and October 8. At the March 2019 meeting, new members Anton Krucky, David Louie, and Kenneth Mansfield were added to our committee. The committee agreed to continue our efforts toward a civic education commission to be housed in the judiciary, that would be created via a Supreme Court rule similar to the Access to Justice Commission (see Rule 21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court), and which ideally would have members representing each branch of the government, the DOE, the University of Hawaii, various groups already involved in civic education, the media, and others interested in promoting civic education throughout the state.

In March 2019, the committee proposed that the AJS Board consider and provide input regarding a draft of a Supreme Court rule that would create a Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE). We received suggested edits to the proposed rule from one board member.

In subsequent meetings, the committee discussed ideas for moving the PACE Commission forward. Co-chair Ginoza conferred with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald to seek his input on the PACE Commission and a Supreme Court rule. CJ Recktenwald was supportive of the idea, while also noting that any rule would need to be approved by the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Some additional edits to the rule were provided by judiciary staff. Moreover, Kenneth Mansfield created a detailed outline of the types of programs and events that the PACE Commission could pursue, along with available resources throughout the country that promote civic education.

¹ Committee Objectives: Reviewing, monitoring and, if applicable, making recommendations relating to court structures, organization, and operations and relationships with other organizations (whether governmental, community or otherwise) and the public. The Committee shall continue to be guided by the final report (including its recommendations) of the AJS Special Committee on the Public Knowledge, Understanding and Confidence in the Courts ("Special Committee Report"). The Special Committee Report was focused in large measure on the state of civic education at that time and made recommendations to improve the general level of understanding of civics and the role of the judiciary.

We previously suggested holding a conference for potential stakeholders to introduce the idea of a PACE Commission, to obtain input from relevant sources, and to create momentum for the commission. However, because AJS is currently working to organize the 2020 AJS Convention, it was suggested that organizing a conference for the PACE Commission at this time would be difficult. Instead, the committee has embarked on efforts to reach out to each of the anticipated authorities or entities that would appoint members to the PACE Commission and to seek their input and commitment in this manner. Those efforts are ongoing at this time.