



## IOWA-NEBRASKA NAACP STATE AREA CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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Betty C. Andrews, President

**MOVING POWERFULLY FORWARD! →**

### Iowa-Nebraska NAACP State Area Conference of Branches

Meeting with Hon. Susan Christensen, Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court

September 8, 2021, 10:00 AM

Via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZcufu6upzwsE907QAilu\\_jkcncl8NMpLns](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZcufu6upzwsE907QAilu_jkcncl8NMpLns)

### Agenda

#### 1. Opening Remarks

- a. Hon. Chief Justice Susan Christensen
- b. President Betty Andrews

#### 2. Jury Trial Reform

##### a. Part I: Elimination of Criminal Records Question on Juror Questionnaire in light of February 4, Supervisory Order

- i. Question may deter many those who have had their citizenship rights restored
- ii. NAACP recommends exploring procedure used in Fair Employment/Ban the Box statutes and ordinances

##### b. Part II: Judicial Branch Outreach to Ensure Awareness of Eligibility and Responsibility to Serve

- i. Importance of engaging in proactive outreach campaign to the 160,000 or so people with felonies whose citizenship rights have been restored and who are now eligible to serve on juries.
- ii. A disproportionate number are Black, multi-racial or otherwise persons of color
- iii. Working with the Department of Corrections on Discharge Process
  1. Making it clear in discharge process and include a letter from Chief in discharge package
  2. Get a state ID

##### c. Part III: Necessity of Reporting Specific Basis When Juror Is Struck for Cause;

- i. NAACP's filed past Comment; to present re Batson Reform during October Judicial Conference
- ii. Justice Mansfield has indicated that he would ask the Court to authorize the Criminal Rules Revision Committee to continue

##### d. Part IV: NAACP Applauds OSCA Jury Monitoring Plan

##### e. Part V: NAACP Urges Renewal of Judicial Branch Support of HF455

- i. Would direct the Department of Revenue to provide OSCA with names and addresses of tax filers, but of course no financial information

#### 3. Alarming Juvenile Justice Disparities Reports

- a. Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning report November 2020: Racial Disparities – An Analysis of Three Decision Points in Iowa's Juvenile Justice System
  - i. In 2019, African-American youth, aged 10-17, were 6.5 times more likely to enter the juvenile justice system for simple misdemeanor offenses compared to White youth.
  - ii. Between 2015 and 2019, African-American youth placed in juvenile detention for probation violations increased 31.0% while White youth decreased by 28.4%.
  - iii. 10-17 youth population for analysis and include 2015-2019 data:
  - iv. African-American youth were 9.8 times more likely to have their case waived to adult court compared to White youth.
  - v. African-American youth were 14.3 times more likely to be direct filed compared to White youth.
- b. Sentencing Project July 2021 report: Black Disparities in Youth Incarceration
  - i. Iowa incarcerates more juveniles than anywhere in the country per capita (712/100,000)
- c. Reports from within the system
- d. Judicial Branch Plans to Address this issue
  - i. Action oriented taskforce

#### 4. Bail Schedule

- a. Next meeting of the Bail Schedule Committee

#### 5. Next Steps