

Jury Selection Working Group
Meeting Minutes: July 14, 2026

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, the Jury Selection Working Group was called to order by Chair Justice William Hood at 4:05 p.m. via videoconference.

The following members were present at the meeting: Justice William Hood (Chair), Joyce Akhahenda, Chief Judge Michelle Amico, Amelia Blyth, Kevin Cheney, Chief Judge Paul Dunkelman, Judge Kellie Eastin, Kim Graham, Judge Elizabeth Harris, Rachel Maestas, Judge Dana Nichols, John Palmeri, Jerry Pratt, Jessica Salerno, and Darryl Shockley.

The following non-voting participants were also present: Terry Scanlon.

The following members were absent from the meeting: Chief Judge Amanda Hunter, Judge Jerry Jones, and Tanja Wheeler.

II. New Business

A. Background of the creation of the Working Group

Kevin Cheney provided background on HB26-1288, the legislation that created the Working Group. Mr. Cheney, as a member of the Colorado Trial Lawyers' Association ("CTLA"), served as one of the leading advocates for HB26-1288. He said he and CTLA believe three areas of jury selection are ripe for review: the amount of time attorneys are provided in questioning potential jurors, the use of questionnaires, and the practice of juror rehabilitation. Changing court rules is a slow process so they pursued legislation that would address the time for questions and the use of questionnaires. He said juror rehabilitation concerns proved to be too difficult to tackle by statute. After the legislation was introduced, he said he was persuaded that a more effective approach to achieving change would be through a special committee process and then CTLA and the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar worked with the Supreme Court to draft the structure of the Working Group.

B. Introductions

The Chair asked each committee member to introduce themselves.

C. Election of Co-Chair

Amelia Blyth nominated Kevin Cheney to serve as Co-Chair of the Working Group. He was elected by unanimous consent.

D. Deadlines

Co-Chair Hood and Co-Chair Cheney discussed the deadlines established in HB26-1288. A progress report needs to be submitted to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026. The Supreme Court has until June 15, 2027, to respond to any proposals from the Working Group. Co-Chair Hood suggested that the Working Group target May 1, 2027, as a deadline for issuing a final report.

E. Future meetings

Co-Chair Cheney said the Working Group will meet monthly initially and could meet frequently if that becomes necessary. He said the meetings would be in-person with a virtual option for members who can't attend in person. In response to a question from John Palmeri, Co-Chair Hood said it would be acceptable for members to have someone attend meetings as a proxy if a member is unable to attend. Co-Chair Cheney emphasized that only the appointed members of the Working Group are voting members. Co-Chair Cheney said the next meeting has been set for the afternoon of August 21, 2026, with a time to be established soon. He said a Doodle Poll will be shared with the Working Group to establish dates for meetings beyond August. Co-Chair Hood said a staff attorney from the Supreme Court, Catherine McDaugale, will provide staff support for the Working Group going forward.

III. Future Meetings

The next meeting is August 21, 2026.

IV. Adjourn

Co-Chair Hood adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.