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Judicial Conference on Jury Selection Gathering for Second Day

The Judicial Conference on Jury Selection continues tomorrow with chief justices from Arizona, Washington State and Connecticut joining Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in one of a series of panels examining ways to guard against bias in jury selection.

The second day of the conference also will include a panel discussion moderated by Justice Lee A. Solomon focusing on transparency in the jury selection process and the Judiciary’s plan to collect juror demographic data.

The New Jersey State Bar Association, the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey, the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, the NAACP, Legal Services of New Jersey, The League of Women Voters, and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, among other groups and stakeholders, are scheduled to give public testimony.

Wednesday’s gathering, the first day of the two-day conference, featured a keynote address by Eddie S. Glaude Jr., chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University and a Time Magazine columnist and frequent MSNBC contributor.

Chief Justice Rabner gave opening remarks to an in-person and virtual audience from the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick.

“We gather today and Friday to consider ways to improve the process of selecting juries and, in particular, to take steps to root out discrimination from that process,” Chief Justice Rabner said.

Four panels at Wednesday’s conference addressed various topics, including the process of questioning jurors, juror pay, removing the permanent disqualification of people convicted of an indictable offense, further expanding the types of sources from which potential jurors are drawn, and other efforts to support diverse juries and juror impartiality.

To join a particular virtual session on Friday, go to the Online Event Center at njcourts.gov.

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