

# Task Force Rewind: A Snapshot of Success

Since 2017, the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) has been using the Task Force model to further judiciary priorities. Here is what we've accomplished in the past six years.

## BJA TASK FORCES



Interpreter Services Funding



Court Recovery



Court Education Services Funding



Court Security

## BY THE NUMBERS

# \$7.7 million

Total funding secured across all BJA task forces

Additional funding secured that may have stemmed from task force efforts:

**\$1,298,000**

Additional learning management system and staffing for court education funding

**\$589,000**

Additional interpreter and staffing funding for interpreter reimbursement program

**223**

Meetings with legislators

**164**

Task force/  
committee members

**78**

Partner associations/  
organizations

**20**

Resources developed

**13**

Statewide surveys

**2**

Policies implemented

“We are committed to implementing what we have learned to improve the promise of true justice for all.”

CHIEF JUSTICE STEVEN GONZÁLEZ, WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

## THE BIG PICTURE



### Interpreter Services Funding Task Force

2017 – 2019

#### GOAL

To identify the demand for and costs of court interpreter services and develop and implement a successful strategy to obtain adequate and sustainable state funding for interpreter services statewide.

#### FUNDING

\$4.8 million allocated in 2019 and 2021 to expand the Court Interpreter Reimbursement Program to ensure all courts have access to interpreter reimbursement.



### Court Education Services Funding Task Force

2017 – 2020

#### GOAL

To create a strategic plan to establish adequate and sustainable funding dedicated to court system education and training. The Task Force reviewed past and current funding, costs for providing training, and how resources impacted the public and the courts.

#### FUNDING

\$207,000 allocated in 2020 for a Learning Management System.



### Court Security Task Force

2019 – 2023

#### GOAL

To assess current court security needs and develop and implement a legislative funding strategy to ensure that every court in Washington can comply with GR 36.

#### FUNDING RECEIVED

\$2.7 allocated in 2021 and 2023 to purchase court equipment and services.



### Court Recovery Task Force

2020 – 2022

#### GOAL

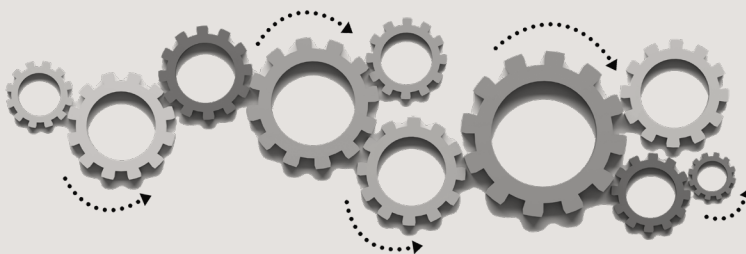
To analyze challenges brought on by the pandemic, identify and assess solutions, develop tools that helped others access solutions, and share knowledge being accumulated across Washington's court system.

#### POLICIES IMPLEMENTED

- SB5225 permitted expedited review by the Court of Appeals of final administrative decisions brought under the APA and LUPA.
- Amended RCW 13.40.080 to allow juvenile diversion agreements beyond six-months for program completion at the request of the juvenile.

#### MATERIALS/RESOURCES/TOOLS DEVELOPED

- Best practice sample templates for virtual dependency proceedings, discovery agreements, and witness lists.
- Checklists for off-site security, safety precautions, and possible outbreaks.
- Best practices for virtual discovery, alternative dispute resolution, and pre-trial processes.
- Guiding principles for use of court technologies.
- Best practices for website development intuitive to court users.
- Updated guidelines for fact-finding and termination of parental rights trials.
- Implemented a statewide Courthouse Security Communication Network.
- Created and maintained a Virtual Court Directory with links to remote hearings, COVID-19 website and Task Force website.
- Developed outreach materials on therapeutic courts.



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Increased system partner involvement is critical to success.
- Realistic and clear funding strategies are key.
- Coordinated messaging about the issues are necessary.
- Surveying the community and good data helps tell the story.
- Staff support is critical.

## MOVING FORWARD

The BJA is committed to continuing with strategic initiatives that focus on judiciary priorities. We have learned that courts can adapt to change and that inclusive and diverse collaboration leads to improved communication, leadership and innovations. **Current efforts include: Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force, Remote Proceedings Work Group, and the Electronic Monitoring and Victim Notification Technology Work Group.**