

SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

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BY UB C. J. MERRITT
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COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Number 25700-B-374

ORDER RENEWING WASHINGTON STATE)
MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION)
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PREAMBLE

1.0 Equal Justice Before the Courts. The Washington State Supreme Court recognizes the need for all persons to be treated equally before the courts of this State. The Court recognizes that for any system of justice to be responsible, it must be examined continuously to ensure it is meeting the needs of all persons who constitute the diverse populations we serve, with particular concern for the needs of persons of color who represent various racial, ethnic, cultural and language groups.

2.0 Establishment of Minority and Justice Commission. The Court on October 4, 1990 established the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission to identify problems and make recommendations to ensure fair and equal treatment in the state courts for all parties, attorneys, court employees and other persons. The Commission was created to examine all levels of the State judicial system to particularly ensure judicial awareness of persons of color to achieve a better quality of justice and to make recommendations for improvement to the extent it is needed.

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3.0 Renewal of Minority and Justice Commission. The Minority and Justice Commission was established in 1990 for a period of five (5) years, subject to renewal for additional years as may be determined by the Court. It was renewed for an additional period of five (5) years by order of this Court on July 15, 1995. Upon review of the activities of the Commission since its creation, the Court now determines that the Commission should be renewed for an additional period of five (5) years, subject to further renewal as may be determined by this Court.

ORDER

4.0 Order Renewing Minority and Justice Commission. By this order the Washington State Supreme Court now renews and continues the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission for an additional period of five (5) years, subject to further renewal for additional years as may be determined by this Court. The Commission shall continue its operation without interruption and shall proceed according to its established organization and program.

5.0 Membership of Commission. The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission shall continue with twenty-one (21) members and shall include an appropriate mix of judges at all levels of court, members of the Washington State Bar Association, the Administrator for the Courts, trial court administrators, college or university professors, and

private citizens. Appointments to the Commission shall be made to assure racial, ethnic, gender, cultural and geographic diversity from the population of the State of Washington.

6.0 Terms of Appointment to Commission. All appointments to the Commission shall be for terms of four (4) years, staggered according to the tenure established under the October 4, 1990 Order, except that the chairperson or co-chairpersons may serve for an unlimited term at the pleasure of the Supreme Court. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the Supreme Court upon recommendation of the Commission.

7.0 Technical Support Members. The chairperson or co-chairpersons may augment the Commission by appointing Technical Support members, to serve without vote, when broader representation or specific expertise is needed. The terms of Technical Support members shall be for one (1) year, renewable for additional periods of one (1) year at the pleasure of the chairperson or co-chairpersons.

8.0 Budget of Commission. The budget of the Commission shall be provided in the Budget of the Supreme Court or in the Budget of the Administrator for the Courts.

9.0 Administrator for the Courts. The Administrator for the Courts, with the advice of the Commission and subject to budget considerations, shall provide staff and other resources for ongoing activities of the Commission. But the Executive Director of the Commission shall be employed by, and be directly responsible to, the Commission acting through its chairperson or co-chairpersons.

10.0 Annual Report. The Commission shall prepare and file an annual report with the Governor, Legislature, Supreme Court and the Administrator for the Courts concerning its activities and shall recommend appropriate action for further promotion of equal justice for racial, ethnic, cultural and language minorities in the state judicial system. This shall include continuing education on cultural diversity for judges and other court personnel.

11.0 Authorization to Seek Funds. The Commission is authorized to seek funding from the private and public sectors and is authorized to receive funds in its own name.

Signed at Olympia, Washington on December 2, 1999.

Richard B. G. G.

Carl J. Sullivan

Richard J.

Charles W. Pearson

Alexander, J.

Madsen, J.

Salmadge, J.

Sanderson, J.