

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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TO: Judge J. Robert Leach, Vice Chair, JISC
Judge Judy Jasprica, Member Chair, BJA
Judge Sean Patrick O'Donnell, President, SCJA
Judge Scott K. Ahlf, President, DMCJA
Judge Michael S. Spearman, Presiding Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Judge Ann Schindler, Chair BJA Budget and Funding Committee
Judge Rebecca Robertson, Chair BJA Policy & Planning Committee
Judge Kevin Ringus, Chair Legislative Committee
Judge G. Scott Marinella, Chair Trial Court Advocacy Board
Darryl Banks, President, WAJCA
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Rob Mead, State Law Librarian
Jim Bamberger, Director, OCLA
Joanne Moore, Director, OPD
Reiko Callner, Executive Director, CJC
Geoff Revelle, Chair, Access to Justice Board

FROM: Mary E. Fairhurst, Chief Justice *Mary*

DATE: February 26, 2018

RE: 2019-2021 Biennial Budget Development and Submittal

It is time again to begin the development of our biennial branch budget. Our goal is to develop and submit a branch-wide budget proposal that reflects our priorities and one that will be supported by our stakeholders and the Legislature.

The 2019-2021 budget development process has been enhanced to include a broader representation of our community and provides an opportunity for more representatives to hear and participate in the budget priority setting process.

Much of the structure and process remains the same. However, I have created a new body, the Court Funding Committee (CFC), comprised of the five member

Supreme Court Budget Committee (SCBC), the three member Board for Judicial Administration Budget and Funding Committee (BFC) and three judicial members of the Judicial Information System Executive Committee (JISC).

The CFC will sit as a body and hear the presentations from all judicial branch entities and stakeholders requesting budget enhancements. The presentation will be in May or June.

The BFC will continue to review, vet, and make recommendations to the full BJA regarding general fund biennial budget requests that flow through the AOC. Specifically, the BFC is responsible for:

- Coordinating efforts to achieve adequate, stable and long-term funding of Washington's courts to provide equal justice throughout the state, and
- Reviewing and making priority recommendations for general fund budget requests that flow through the AOC.

The BFC will make priority recommendations to the BJA for state general fund requests that flow through the AOC. The BJA will make budget level and priority recommendations to the CFC regarding 2019-2021 general fund budget requests that flow through the AOC.

The CFC will make final recommendations that will be forwarded to the Supreme Court. The recommendations will be based on established criteria, the branch budget request presentation that will be held in May or June, and feedback from our stakeholders.

While the economic outlook has significantly improved, we all have a responsibility to carefully examine every budget request. Proponents should only submit those requests that meet the criteria and that represent the highest priority.

Once the priority recommendations are established, the full court will consider a number of factors when deciding which budget requests move forward to the Legislature. Factors include the priorities set by the BFC, recommendations from the BJA and CFC, the current and anticipated economic environment, constitutional and statutory requirements, and other factors.

Details of the budget development process may be found on the courts' web page. Adherence to the established procedures and timeline is necessary to ensure that the process remains consistent and objective, ensuring that all requests forwarded to the Legislature are sound and well vetted.

The Administrative Office of the Courts Management Services Division will provide staff support for the development, submittal, and review of budget requests considered for inclusion in the courts' budget proposal to the Legislature. All budget

requests are due **April 6, 2018**. Please send all budget requests to Ramsey Radwan at ramsey.radwan@courts.wa.gov.

Information regarding presentations before the CFC will be sent at a later date.

You will find contact information, templates, and detailed information here:
https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd§ion=2019BudgetInstructions

Thank you in advance for adhering to the schedule and process. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 357-2053 or call Ramsey Radwan at (360) 357-2406.

cc: Justices of the Supreme Court
Executive Committee, Court of Appeals
Callie Dietz, State Court Administrator
Michael Johnston, Supreme Court Commissioner
Susan Carlson, Supreme Court Clerk
Rick Neidhardt, Reporter of Decisions
Ramsey Radwan, Director, Management Services Division