



GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

AOC SEATAC FACILITY

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017 (8:45 AM – NOON)

JUSTICE SHERYL GORDON MCCLOUD, CHAIR

JUDGE MARILYN PAJA, VICE CHAIR

Agenda

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8:45 – 9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER

- Approval of March 3, 2017 Meeting Notes

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9:00 – 10:30 AM COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

- **Education** Judge Melnick & Committee
 - Report back from in person committee meeting
 - Recent education programs
 - Upcoming education programs
- **Gender Bias Study** Justice Gordon McCloud & Committee
 - Embedded librarian
 - Progress on scoping
 - Funding update
- **Tribal State Court Consortium** Judge Smith
 - Update on regional meetings
- **Incarcerated Women and Girls Committee** Gail Stone
 - “Court Access for Incarcerated Parents” Convening
- **Law Student/Judicial Reception** Vicky Vreeland
- **Communications** Judge Paja
 - Annual Report
- **Women’s History Month Reception** Gail Stone

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Agenda

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10:30 – 11:00 AM GUEST SPEAKER(S) & EXPLORATORY PROJECTS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| ➤ Remote access for DVPO hearings | Brooke Hays, Adams County
Prosecutor's Office | 9 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|

11:00 – 12:00 PM CHAIR AND STAFF REPORTS, COMMISSION BUSINESS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| ➤ Chair Report | Justice Gordon McCloud | |
| ➤ New Member Nominations | | 15 |
| ➤ Committee Membership | | 16 |
| ➤ HB 1163 Implementation | | 17 |
| ➤ Vice Chair Report | Judge Paja | 20 |
| ➤ BJA Resolution – Language Access | | |
| ➤ Staff Report | Kelley Amburgey-Richardson | 22 |
| ➤ GJCOM Funding Overview | | |
| ➤ Conference Scholarships | | |

APPENDIX

- Gender & Justice Commission Comments to ATJ Board Re: Draft Civil Legal Aid Plan
- Domestic Violence Committee Recent and Ongoing Projects
- Sexual Violence Committee Report and Future Projects
- Gender and Justice Letter in Support of VAWA Funding



Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)
Temple of Justice
Olympia, WA
Friday, March 3, 2017 (9:30 AM – 11:45 PM)

MEETING NOTES

Present: Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Chair; Judge Marilyn Paja, Vice Chair; Ms. Grace Huang, Judge Richard Melnick, Dr. Dana Raigrodski, Judge Cindy K. Smith, Ms. Rita Bender, Judge Michael Evans, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Emily Cordo, Ms. Vicky Vreeland, Ms. Gail Stone, Ms. Emily Miner, Ms. Anela Ramic, Ms. Jennifer Ritchie

AOC Staff: Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, Ms. Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos

Excused: Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Anita Crawford-Willis, Judge Mark Pouley, Judge Eric Lucas, Ms. Josie Delvin, Ms. Trish Kinlow, Ms. Sonia M. Rodriguez True, Ms. Gail Hammer, Mr. David Ward

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

January 13, 2017 Meeting Notes

Minutes approved and passed unanimously as presented.

Chair Report

New leadership and legacy

- Justice Gordon McCloud thanked Justice Madsen for her many years of contributions to GJCOM.
- She shared that Justice Gordon McCloud has been appointed Chair and Judge Paja has been appointed Vice Chair and talked about the transition.

Membership transitions and processes

- Members are appointed to three year terms, and can serve a maximum of two terms in a row. There will be some upcoming transitions in membership due to these limits.
- Justice Gordon McCloud shared information about the process the Commission will use to select new members. Nomination committee members include: Chair, Vice Chair, committee chairs, and liaisons. New members will be approved by consensus.
- This is the time to decide what substantive expertise is needed and to look at intersectionality and women with the most barriers. Some current work to consider: Tribal, SA/DV, Legislation, and Gender Bias Study. Justice Gordon McCloud expressed continued support for a Minority Bar Association member to have a seat as well.

- Dr. Raigrodski suggested that GJCOM consider opportunities for mentoring people who are interested in the work of GJCOM but not yet involved or experts. This could include inviting new members or expanding Committee opportunities to non-members.
- Justice Gordon McCloud invited members to share any other items that will not be covered by Committee Reports.

Vice Chair Report

Annual Report

- Judge Paja shared about the upcoming Annual Report. It will feature a piece on Justice Madsen and a State of Commission report.

BJA Resolution about language access

- Judge Paja would like GJCOM to request that the BJA renew their resolution in support of language access. The current BJA resolution is in the packet.
- Ms. Savina supports the resolution. Ms. Huang also supports it, and expressed that translation (including of mandatory forms), not just interpretation, be included.
- Members discussed how judges and lawyers would use the translated forms. There should be ongoing training and technical assistance for judges.
- The scope of the resolution is vague, but members believe it should apply to all courts.
- The Interpreter Commission is drafting a model language access plan. GJCOM could suggest language for the resolution that recommends all courts use this template to create their own plans.
- Members discussed the availability of language access coordinators. This is not consistent statewide. Appellate Courts do not have language access coordinators. This could be included as a recommendation in the resolution.

ACTION: Volunteers will draft language to propose to BJA: Ms. Delostrinos, Judge Evans, and Ms. Huang. Recommendations will address intersectionality, include best practices, technical assistance, and educational resources. Will consult with Justice Gonzalez. A draft will be circulated to the Commission for edits.

NAWJ Women's History Month event

- The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), and King County Washington Women Lawyers (KCWWL) are co-hosting a reception from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on March 22, 2017. The event will be held at Dorsey Whitney, Columbia Center, 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6100 in Seattle. Governor Christine Gregoire will be the featured speaker.
- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson will send out the RSVP information to the list.

Staff Report

Budget

- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson shared that both budgets are in good shape. We are still near the beginning of the STOP grant year. We are more than half way through the state fiscal year (GJCOM grant) and we are less than halfway spent, but have many events upcoming.

Submission of BJA Strategic Goal

- At the last GJCOM meeting, members discussed the process for submitting a request for BJA to adopt a Strategic Goal. Members suggested that a goal related to support for the Gender Bias Study would be a good idea. Following this meeting, staff, in coordination with the Chairs, submitted this goal. It is in the packet. We have not been notified about whether the BJA has adopted the goal or not.

Feedback Requested on State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid

- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson shared that the Access to Justice Board has requested input from judicial partners about their draft plan. The plan is intended to guide the efforts of the Alliance for Equal Justice for the next three years as they seek to expand access to the justice system and reduce barriers. It touches on issues that are relevant to our communities and the work of GJCOM. Information about how to submit feedback is in the packet. The due date April 17th.
- For example, we know from the Civil Legal Needs study that women who are victims of domestic or sexual violence often experience many civil legal issues related to that violence at one time. This is particularly true for women of color and LGBTQ individuals.
- Commission members discussed the draft plan. Ms. Cordo, who sits on the workgroup that drafted the plan, shared that the intent was to put racial justice at the forefront. Members supported this focus, but felt that the plan should incorporate references to the intersections of race and gender – for example, barriers that women of color and LGBTQ people of color face.

ACTION: Justice Gordon McCloud will draft a letter to the ATJ Board to provide feedback discussed by members. Ms. Vreeland and Ms. Cordo volunteered to review and edit the letter. DUE: April 17th.

Proposal to create an ATJ-Supreme Court Commissions Ad Hoc Committee

- Cynthia shared the proposal developed by staff following the December 2016 joint ATJ-Commissions meeting and asked for the Commission's feedback.
- Should this plan be adopted, the Commission favors quarterly over monthly meetings.
- Gender and Justice Commission tabled further discussion until the next meeting. Judge Paja will talk to Judge Anita Crawford, Justice Gordon McCloud will talk to Justice Yu and Justice Gonzalez, as Chairs of the other Commissions.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

Incarcerated Women and Girls Committee

“Court Access for Incarcerated Parents” Convening

- June 5th was tentatively selected as the date for this event. The Committee will be looking at new dates so that the event does not conflict with the DMCJA Conference.

Juvenile Defense Standards

- The Committee discussed the draft standards on their recent call. The Committee proposes that GJCOM submit recommendations that gender specific information be included in a few different areas in the standards. Commission approves of this action and Committee Chair can draft letter.
- The Committee also discussed on their call whether broader recommendations about the standards should be made - for example, should GJCOM recommend adoption and if so should they be aspirational or mandatory. There were differing views.
- Justice Gordon McCloud provided background information about the adoption of defense standards. Misdemeanor standards were approved and are mandatory.
- Committee members shared their views and Commission members discussed. Ms. Stone will provide the standards via email and the discussion about providing a broader recommendation is tabled for May meeting.

ACTION: Justice Gordon McCloud will obtain deadline for submitting feedback.

ACTION: Ms. Stone will draft letter recommending inclusion of gender specific language in a few key sections of the standards. She will circulate to the Commission and then send. This will take place before next GJCOM meeting, so the letter will indicate additional review is taking place and additional feedback may be provided.

Law Books for Incarcerated Women

- Women incarcerated at MCCW do not have access to a library or online legal resources. They can be transported to WCCW for access to their library, but must be infraction free and only have access for a few hours.
- The kiosk is ready to be piloted at MCCW. It has not been installed yet, this should happen soon.
- Committee member Ms. Elizabeth Hendren has experienced difficulty donating law books to MCCW.
- The Commission discussed what its role could be in encouraging access to law books or online legal resources, like Westlaw or Lexis, for incarcerated women.

- Commission members were not sure what access incarcerated men have to these resources in our state. If there is a disparity, it would be an appropriate place for GJCOM to weigh in in support of access for women.

ACTION: Ms. Stone will find out what access incarcerated men have to law books and online legal resources. Ms. Vreeland offered suggestions of who to contact. Ms. Amburgey-Richardson worked closely with DOC in her last position and can assist the Committee.

Education

LGBTQ Bench Guide

- This is a follow-up from the November GJCOM meeting, at which GJCOM members raised concerns about the advocacy tone of some portions of the guide.
- QLaw has revised the guide using GJCOM suggestions. Judge Melnick, David, and Leslie reviewed the guide and recommend that it be published on the AOC site and on the GJCOM site, and that GJCOM adopt QLaw's preferred attribution of "Prepared by the QLaw Foundation and QLaw Association for the Washington State Supreme Court's Gender & Justice Commission."
- It is also recommended that GJCOM funds be used to print copies of the guide to be distributed during the Fall Conference session on Transgender People.

ACTION: Ms. Amburgey-Richardson will obtain permission from QLaw to distribute electronically to full Commission. She will send a poll to the Commission with the guide, asking them to vote on three items – (1) GJCOM website, (2) Asking AOC to put on their website, (3) Preferred attribution.

Judicial College

- The evaluations have not been released yet. They should be available before the Ed. Comm. Meeting on March 27th. The Committee will discuss revising the program at that meeting. Judge Melnick is working with Judge Sandy Allen revamp program.

DMCMA Line Staff Trainings

- This program focuses on sexual assault and skills for interacting with people who may have experienced trauma. It will take place in 7 locations during the month of April.
- The agenda and session description have been finalized. Ms. Cordo and her former colleague at the Sexual Violence Legal Services program of the YWCA will be providing the trainings.

Appellate Judges' Conference

- GJCOM is sponsoring a 3 hour workshop on collegiality provided by 2 federal judges.

SCJA Spring Conference

- April 25th, 1:45 – 4pm, Spokane, WA.
- This session will focus on cultural competence in protection order proceedings. A session description has been written, and faculty are being secured.

DMCJA Spring Conference

- June 6th, 10:15 – 11:45am, Spokane, WA.
- This session will focus on cyberstalking/cyber violence. We are in the process of securing faculty.
- There is potential for coordinating this session with a judicial listening session on cyberviolence and/or a multidisciplinary training.

Fall Conference

- Two proposals were accepted.
- Transgender People and the Courts: Ensuring Respect and Fairness (David) – Sept 19th, 8:30 – 10am, Vancouver, WA.
- DV and Children (Leslie) – Sept 18th, 10:30 – 12, Vancouver, WA.
 - Faculty reach outs are happening. More information will be provided at next meeting.

Joint Commissions Project – Poverty Simulation Training

- GJCOM submitted a joint proposal with other Commissions to the ATJ conference to present this session. We have not heard back yet if it was accepted.
- CDC retreat March 24, education committee meeting March 22 LIVE encourage anyone to come. Suggesting topics for the future.

Tribal State Court Consortium

Spring meeting planning

- The Consortium is working to select a date for a spring meeting. Eastern Washington judges are being tracked down.

ACTION: Judge Cindy K. Smith to reach out to Justice Madsen.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- Ms. Huang passed out an article about a domestic violence victim being arrested by immigration officials outside a courtroom where she was seeking a protection order. This is an issue that MJCOM is discussing. Members thought this issue may be an appropriate collaboration between the two Commissions. Justice Gordon McCloud suggested this

issue may be added to the Gender Bias Study workgroup's "After Leaving the Courthouse" section.

TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Sexual Violence Committee
- Gender Bias Study
- Domestic Violence Committee

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.

Report from Incarcerated Women & Girls Committee

May 1, 2017

Projects:

Library access for women in minimum security detention at Mission Creek:

DOC's law library for women is located at the Washington Corrections Center for Women at Purdy (WCC). To get access to legal resources, women at the Mission Creek minimum security facility must arrange for temporary transfer to WCC. By some accounts, this limited access has resulted in some individuals seeking reclassification to a higher security status in order to have full access to legal resources at WCC. At best, women at Mission Creek have limited access to legal resources. We have reached out to DOC leadership.

NEXT STEPS: Commission should consider sending a letter to DOC requesting sufficient access to legal resources for individuals at Mission Creek.

Juvenile Defense Guidelines:

The WSBA's Committee on Public Defense (CPD) requested comment from GJCOMM on their proposed Juvenile Defense Guidelines. The IWGC reviewed a prior draft of the guidelines and had suggested comments or edits specific to issues affecting girls and young women. The IWGC is awaiting a significantly revised version from CPD and will offer a similar review, which we will submit to the full Commission for a decision on whether to submit those comments to COD. We hope to receive it in time for Commission review and action in May.

Stakeholder Convening Monday, June 26, 2017:

In 2014, GJCOMM convened a stakeholder meeting to discuss issues of improving access to family court proceedings for incarcerated parents. Along with the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force, the GJCOMM is co-sponsoring a follow-up stakeholder meeting on Monday, June 26, 2017 at the SeaTac AOC offices.

There are many barriers that incarcerated parents face in trying to participate in their family law and/or dependency cases. There is no uniform, statewide procedure that courts use when an incarcerated parent wants to remotely participate in a hearing, trial, or other court proceeding. The purpose of this convening is to find solutions that will facilitate participation, and will help keep families together. In particular, one objective is to create a statewide procedure for incarcerated parents to remotely participate in their family law and dependency cases.

Invited participants will include judicial officers, court clerks, and other court personnel; DOC administrators and staff, formerly incarcerated parents (and, if possible, a parent who is currently incarcerated); and attorneys who work with incarcerated parents.

Need for Project: This project is submitted by the Adams County Justice System.

Broadly this project focuses on two key needs: 1) Granting improved access to justice for victims of Domestic violence and those needing protection orders and 2) Alleviating financial barriers for those trying to access the court in that fashion.

Overview of need: Adams County is Frontier County located in the farm country of Washington. The needs of small rural counties and communities cannot be ignored. While other counties often garner more attention due to their size, the challenges facing small counties are every bit as important as those with higher populations.

As illustration in this overview I hope you will find that rural communities in Adams County face a host of issues that are perpetuated due to lack of resources and distance. While rural counties did not cause and cannot solve every problem they encounter they must be able to deliver services to the greatest degree possible, supporting access to justice.

Geographic Isolation: The large majority of the population of Adams County is located in Othello, Washington which is 52 miles away from Ritzville, Washington that serves as the county seat. Adams County residence must travel to Ritzville in order to access any superior court services.

Access to services is solely dependent upon personal transportation (no public transit)

Access is further complicated by frequent travel restrictions during the long and harsh winter season (up to 100 inches of snow) November to March.

Due to the long distance a victim may have to travel (104 miles or more) often they choose to remain in unsafe situations oppose to getting the protection order they really need.

Poverty: The poverty rate in Adams County is almost 5% higher than the national average. The poverty Rate in Othello is over 12% higher than the national average. (www.census.gov)

Often times New Hope will give people gas cards in hopes of being able to find someone who can take them to get their protection orders. Many of those seeking services do not have the funds or means to travel to Ritzville and back for a protection order.

Challenges and Culture: 52.7% of people living in Adams County have a language other than English spoken at home. 62.4% of Adams County's population is Hispanic or Latino. (www.census.gov)

Project Services:

This project will provide video conferencing equipment that will allow for improved access to justice. The Adams County Superior Court will be fully equipped with video conferencing equipment that will allow for those in Othello or receiving services in Moses Lake requesting temporary protection orders to have court access.

Conferencing stations will be set up in the Othello Sheriff's office as well as New Hope in Moses Lake. This will reduce victim's trips by up to 104 miles to get a temporary protection order.

This will encourage people to seek services and reduce their personal cost to doing so.

This will allow for those seeking services to access the court on time as the court has a highly regimented calendar that it does not deviate from.

We anticipate high use of this service and equipment. We have confidence this will greatly increase access to justice for those living outside of Ritzville in Adams County. This project will be an excellent example for other counties to model after.



Adams County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Dale J. Wagner

03-07-2017

Gender and Justice Commission
Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Attention Members of the Gender and Justice Commission:

This letter has been formed to show that I, Sheriff Dale Wagner, strongly support the request for funding a video conferencing system which has been requested by Adams County. This system will give Adams County the ability to link victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and many other related crimes to the resources within Superior court and other entities within Adams County, in a more efficient way.

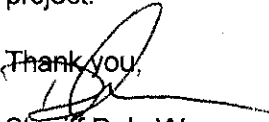
Adams County, located in the heart of Washington State, is unique in that the Superior court is approximately a 45 minute drive from the county's most populated area of Othello. Due to this distance, many victims of the crimes listed previously, are isolated from the Adams County Courthouse where these matters are heard and safety measures can be put in place.

Many of the residents of Othello struggle financially and live in poverty. Their means of transportation are sparse at best. This makes it difficult for those victims to travel long distances for court appearances. The Superior Court Judge also rightfully wishes to see those victims especially of these crimes, face to face, as he questions them about their agreement to such things as Domestic Violence protection orders.

I know that Adams County Superior Court, Judge Steve Dixon, and all other factions involved agree the implementation of such a video conferencing system would greatly improve the accessibility to the courts and judges within Adams County. This will greatly assist the victims, as well as the legal process within Adams County. A more efficient process will create better services and outcomes for victims as well the justice system as a whole.

I hope that The Gender and Justice Commission will support Adams County in their request for funding this project.

Thank you,


Sheriff Dale Wagner
Adams County Sheriff's Office
210 W. Broadway Ave.
Ritzville, WA 99169
509-659-1122

210 W Broadway, Ritzville, WA 99169 * Telephone 509 659-1122 * Fax 509 659-1724

2069 W Highway 26, Othello, WA 99344 * Telephone 509 488-2061 * Fax 509 488-2771



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César E. Torres
Executive Director

February 15, 2017

Gender & Justice Commission
Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Dear Members of the Gender & Justice Commission:

I write in support of the request for funding for a video conference system submitted by Adams County. I understand that Adams County is requesting funding for a video feed linking Adams County Superior Court with mobile video stations at the local domestic violence victim service office, New Hope. This video feed will assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in accessing the court to request and obtain protection against their abusers.

The Northwest Justice Project's Wenatchee office serves low income residents of Adams County with their civil legal needs. If the funding request is approved, the video feed will provide significant assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who reside throughout this large, rural county. The approximate population of the county is 19,100. The courthouse is located in a Ritzville, a very small town with a population of only approximately 1,670. By far the largest population center in Adams County is Othello, Washington, with an approximate population of 7,809. More than a third of the population of Adams County lives in Othello. Residents of Othello are geographically isolated from access to Adams County Superior Court. Othello is about an hour's drive from Ritzville.

Significant numbers of Othello residents live in poverty, are foreign born, and are Hispanic or Latino. According to Quick Facts data from the US Census website as of July, 2015, Othello has a population of 7,809 people and 25.7% of the town residents live in poverty. Additionally, 27.6% of Othello residents are foreign born and 74.7% are Hispanic or Latino. Census data also state that 59.6% of Othello residents speak a language other than English at home.

Victims of Domestic Violence in Othello are particularly vulnerable. According to the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) Fatality Review Report, a disproportionately higher number of victims of domestic violence are Native American or



women of color based on the population size of those groups in Washington. Additionally, the WSCADV issue brief on Immigrant and Refugee Victims of Domestic Violence Homicide in Washington State found immigrants face higher rates of domestic violence homicide than non-immigrants.

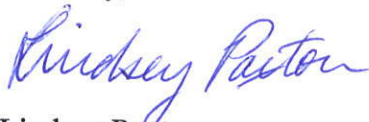
Adams County Superior Court local rules require victims to personally appear in court to request a Temporary Order for Protection or Temporary Sexual Assault Protection Order. Local rules do not permit the filing of ex parte requests by fax, and victims are not allowed to appear telephonically. Victims must appear in person at 11:00 AM. These local rules have a significant effect on the highly vulnerable victims residing in Othello.

In one case, a victim of domestic violence sought assistance from New Hope domestic violence advocates in filing a Petition for a Domestic Violence Order for Protection (DVPO). The victim was nine months pregnant and nearing her due date. The victim received assistance filling out her Petition for a DVPO from New Hope on a Monday morning, but they did not finish in time for her to arrive in Ritzville for the 11:00 AM Ex Parte Calendar. The victim did not drive, so she had to find a ride from Othello to Ritzville on Tuesday morning. Unfortunately, the victim arrived about ten minutes late and was not allowed to present her petition for a Temporary DVPO on Tuesday. The victim had to return the next day and on Wednesday, ready to give birth at any time, she finally received a Temporary DVPO. In many other cases, when victims find out that they will have to go to court in Ritzville to file their DVPO, then return again for the full hearing, many victims decide to forego a DVPO request at all.

Northwest Justice Project and New Hope met with the Adams County Superior Court Judge, Steve Dixon, about the impact local rules have on victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In our meeting with Judge Dixon, he recognized the potential ramifications, but does not want to change the rules to allow for fax filing or telephonic appearances in these matters. Judge Dixon agreed to use a video feed for these Ex Parte appearances, but wants to be able to see the Petitioners to judge their credibility when he asks them questions about their Petitions.

Video feed equipment will help more victims receive court relief from abuse. This request will serve the needs of victims who are particularly vulnerable and isolated. I hope the Gender and Justice Commission will support Adams County's Request for funds.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Paxton
Staff Attorney



NEW HOPE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIME VICTIMS SERVICE CENTER

Gender & Justice Commission
Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Dear Members of the Gender & Justice Commission:

On behalf of New Hope, I write you today to support the request for funding for a video conference system submitted by the Adams County Prosecuting Attorney's office.

It's my understanding Adams County is requesting funding for a video feed linking Adams County Superior Court and our office, New Hope (the only local provider of victim advocacy in a 2 county area). This video feed will assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in accessing the court to request protection against their abusers.

Recently, Northwest Justice Project and New Hope met with the Adams County Superior Court Judge, Steve Dixon, about the impact local rules have on victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the meeting, Judge Dixon recognized the potential ramifications, but does not want to change the rules to allow for fax filing or telephonic appearances in these matters. Judge Dixon wants to know that victims are serious about their DVPO petitions, and stated that by showing up for the Ex Parte request for a Temporary DVPO he could explain the severity of the matter to the victim and ensure that they were equally serious about seeking protection from the court. Judge Dixon was open to using a video feed for these Ex Parte appearances, but wants to be able to see the Petitioners when he asks them questions about their Petitions.

Video feed equipment will help more victims receive court relief from abuse. This request will serve the needs of a vulnerable and isolated community of victims. I hope the Gender and Justice Commission will support Adams County Prosecutor's Request for funds.

Sincerely,

Suzi Fode
Interim Director, New Hope

Gender Justice Commission
Members Term Limits

Category: Term Year is July 1 - June 30		12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Supreme Court									
0	Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Chair			Ongoing					
1	Justice Susan Owens					Ongoing			
Court of Appeals									
2	Hon. Rich Melnick	12-15 (1st)		15-18 (2nd)					
Trial Court Judges									
3	Hon. Michael Evans		13-16 (1st)		16-19 (2nd)				
4	Hon. Judy Rae Jasprica	12-15 (1st)		15-18 (2nd)					
5	Hon. Eric Lucas		13-16 (1st)		16-19 (2nd)				
6	Hon. Marilyn Paja, Vice Chair		13-16 (1st)		Ongoing				
Tribal Court									
7	Hon. Cindy K. Smith					16-19 (1st)			
8	Hon. Mark Pouley	12-15 (1st)		15-18 (2nd)					
Bar Associations/Attorneys									
9	Ms. Leslie Savina	12-15 (1st)		15-18 (2nd)					
10	Mr. David Ward	11-14 (1st)	14-17 (2nd)						
11	Ms. Rita Bender				15-18 (1st)				
12	Ms. Vicky Vreeland				15-18 (1st)				
13	Sonia Rodriguez-True				15-18 (1st)				
14	Ms. Jennifer Ritchie, WWL					16-19 (1st)			
Clerk of the Courts									
15	Josie Delvin			14-17 (1st)					
Trial Court Administrator									
16	Ms. LaTricia (Trish) Kinlow			14-17 (1st)					
College or University Professor									
17	Gail Hammer				15-18 (1st)				
18	Dana Raigrodski				15-18 (1st)				
Citizen/State Coalitions									
19	Ms. Grace Huang			14-17 (1st)					
20	Ms. Gail Stone	12-15 (1st)		15-18 (2nd)					
21	Emily Cordo				15-18 (1st)				
Liaison									
0	Judge Anita Crawford-Willis (ATJ)				Ongoing				

Updated

Gender and Justice Commission Committees & Project Groups

Domestic Violence	Incarcerated Women & Girls	Sexual Violence
Vacant, Chair	Gail Stone, Chair	Emily Cordo, Chair
Josie Delvin	Rita Bender	Judge Scott Wolfram*
Jake Fawcett*	Judge Michael Evans	Judge Elizabeth Berns*
Grace Huang	Gail Hammer	Terri Cooper*
Trish Kinlow	Elizabeth Hendren*	Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Dee Koester*	Leslie Savina	Judge Sara Derr*
Dawn Lewis*	David Ward	Theresa Ewing*
Judge Eric Z. Lucas	Judge Karen Donohue*	Judge Debra Hayes*
Judge Rich Melnick	Judge Marilyn Paja	Laura Jones*
Judge Marilyn Paja		Trish Kinlow
Judge Mark Pouley		Judge Jackie Shea-Brown*
Judge Jim Riehl, Ret.*	Success Inside & Out	
Leslie Savina	Judge Karen Donohue*	
Judge Cindy K. Smith		
David Ward		
Judge Judy Jasprica		
Communications	Tribal State Court Consortium	Education
Judge Marilyn Paja, Chair	Judge Cindy K. Smith, Chair	Judge Rich Melnick, Chair
Trish Kinlow	Judge Mark Pouley	Judge Michael Evans
Judge Eric Lucas	Judge Lori K. Smith*	Judge Judy Jasprica
Gail Stone	Cindy Bricker (AOC)*	Trish Kinlow
	Justice Barbara Madsen*	Josie Delvin
		Dr. Dana Raigrodski
		David Ward
		Leslie Savina
		Emily Cordo
		Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
		Judge Marilyn Paja
Judicial & Law Student Reception	Nominations Committee	Gender Bias Study
Vicky Vreeland	Justice Gordon McCloud, Chair	Justice Gordon McCloud, Chair
Judge Karen Donohue*	Judge Paja	Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
	Committee Chairs	Emily Cordo
	Association Liaisons	Dr. Dana Raigrodski
		Vicky Vreeland
		Judge Marilyn Paja
		Jennifer Ritchie
Women's History Month		
Rotating		

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 7.36 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Notwithstanding RCW 36.18.040, the sheriff may waive fees
4 associated with service of a writ of habeas corpus that was issued
5 for the return of a child when the person who was granted the writ
6 is, by reason of poverty, unable to pay the cost of service.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The administrative office of the
8 courts shall, through the Washington state gender and justice
9 commission of the supreme court, convene a work group to address the
10 issue of domestic violence perpetrator treatment and the role of
11 certified perpetrator treatment programs in holding domestic violence
12 perpetrators accountable.

13 (2) The work group must include a representative for each of the
14 following organizations or interests: Superior court judges, district
15 court judges, municipal court judges, court probation officers,
16 prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, civil legal aid attorneys,
17 domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence perpetrator
18 treatment providers, the department of social and health services,
19 the department of corrections, the Washington state institute for
20 public policy, and the University of Washington evidence based
21 practice institute. At least two domestic violence perpetrator
22 treatment providers must be represented as members of the work group.

23 (3) The work group shall: (a) Review laws, regulations, and court
24 and agency practices pertaining to domestic violence perpetrator
25 treatment used in civil and criminal contexts, including criminal
26 domestic violence felony and misdemeanor offenses, family law, child
27 welfare, and protection orders; (b) consider the development of a
28 universal diagnostic evaluation tool to be used by treatment
29 providers and the department of corrections to assess the treatment
30 needs of domestic violence perpetrators; and (c) develop
31 recommendations on changes to existing laws, regulations, and court
32 and agency practices to improve victim safety, decrease recidivism,
33 advance treatment outcomes, and increase the courts' confidence in
34 domestic violence perpetrator treatment.

35 (4) The work group shall report its recommendations to the
36 affected entities and the appropriate committees of the legislature
37 no later than June 30, 2018.

38 (5) The work group must operate within existing funds.

39 (6) This section expires June 30, 2019.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington
2 state has a serious problem with domestic violence offender
3 recidivism and lethality. The Washington state institute for public
4 policy studied domestic violence offenders finding not just high
5 rates of domestic violence recidivism but among the highest rates of
6 general criminal and violent recidivism. The Washington state
7 coalition against domestic violence has issued fatality reviews of
8 domestic violence homicides in Washington under chapter 43.235 RCW
9 for over fifteen years. These fatality reviews demonstrate the
10 significant impact of domestic violence on our communities as well as
11 the barriers and high rates of lethality faced by victims. The
12 legislature further notes there have been several high profile
13 domestic violence homicides with multiple prior domestic violence
14 incidents not accounted for in the legal response. Many jurisdictions
15 nationally have encountered the same challenges as Washington and now
16 utilize risk assessment as a best practice to assist in the response
17 to domestic violence.

18 The Washington domestic violence risk assessment work group is
19 established to study how and when risk assessment can best be used to
20 improve the response to domestic violence offenders and victims and
21 find effective strategies to reduce domestic violence homicides,
22 serious injuries, and recidivism that are a result of domestic
23 violence incidents in Washington state.

24 (2)(a) The Washington state gender and justice commission, in
25 collaboration with the Washington state coalition against domestic
26 violence and the Washington State University criminal justice
27 program, shall coordinate the work group and provide staff support.

28 (b) The work group must include a representative from each of the
29 following organizations:

- 30 (i) The Washington state gender and justice commission;
- 31 (ii) The department of corrections;
- 32 (iii) The department of social and health services;
- 33 (iv) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- 34 (v) The superior court judges' association;
- 35 (vi) The district and municipal court judges' association;
- 36 (vii) The Washington state association of counties;
- 37 (viii) The Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;
- 38 (ix) The Washington defender association;
- 39 (x) The Washington association of criminal defense lawyers;
- 40 (xi) The Washington state association of cities;

1 (xii) The Washington state coalition against domestic violence;
2 (xiii) The Washington state office of civil legal aid; and
3 (xiv) The family law section of the Washington state bar
4 association.

5 (c) The work group must additionally include representation from:

6 (i) Treatment providers;

7 (ii) City law enforcement;

8 (iii) County law enforcement;

9 (iv) Court administrators; and

10 (v) Domestic violence victims or family members of a victim.

11 (3) At a minimum, the work group shall research, review, and make
12 recommendations on the following:

13 (a) How to best develop and use risk assessment in domestic
14 violence response utilizing available research and Washington state
15 data;

16 (b) Providing effective strategies for incorporating risk
17 assessment in domestic violence response to reduce deaths, serious
18 injuries, and recidivism due to domestic violence;

19 (c) Promoting access to domestic violence risk assessment for
20 advocates, police, prosecutors, corrections, and courts to improve
21 domestic violence response;

22 (d) Whether or how risk assessment could be used as an
23 alternative to mandatory arrest in domestic violence;

24 (e) Whether or how risk assessment could be used in bail
25 determinations in domestic violence cases, and in civil protection
26 order hearings;

27 (f) Whether or how offender risk, needs, and responsivity could
28 be used in determining eligibility for diversion, sentencing
29 alternatives, and treatment options;

30 (g) Whether or how victim risk, needs, and responsivity could be
31 used in improving domestic violence response;

32 (h) Whether or how risk assessment can improve prosecution and
33 encourage prosecutors to aggressively enforce domestic violence laws;
34 and

35 (i) Encouraging private sector collaboration.

36 (4) The work group shall compile its findings and recommendations
37 into a final report and provide its report to the appropriate
38 committees of the legislature and governor by June 30, 2018.

39 (5) The work group must operate within existing funds.

40 (6) This section expires June 30, 2019.

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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May 4, 2017

Misty Butler
Administrative Manager
Board for Judicial Administration
1112 Quince St. SE
P.O. Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Re: Request to Renew Resolution in Support of Language Access Services in Court

Dear Ms. Butler:

The mission of the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission is to promote gender equity in the system of law and justice. The Commission focuses that mission with its commitment to improving access to the courts for women and girls who experience barriers to accessing the justice system.

The Commission recognizes that it is important to look at the intersections of gender bias and other issues that impact access to justice, such as language access. Language barriers can create impediments to access to justice for individuals who are limited-English proficient.

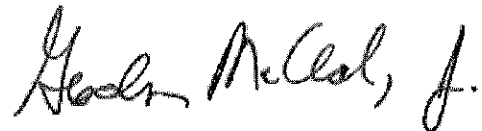
The Gender and Justice Commission requests that the Board for Judicial Administration renew its Resolution in Support of Language Access Services in Court, adopted on July 20, 2012. The Commission supports the contents of this Resolution in full.

In addition, the Commission would like to express its interest in seeing that the translation of court forms related to the protection of victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, be prioritized as part of the action steps of the resolution. Gender based violence is an issue of importance to the Commission, and the translation of these forms would improve access to justice for women and girls who are victims of violence.

Misty Butler
May 4, 2017
Page Two

Renewing this Resolution would demonstrate the BJA's continued commitment to removing impediments to access to the justice system, including physical and language barriers, rules and procedures, disparate treatment and other differences that may serve as barriers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Gordon McCloud, J." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Chair, Gender and Justice Commission
Washington State Supreme Court

cc: Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, AOC

Gender & Justice Commission
Budget July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Commission Expenses	Proposed Budget	FY16-17
Commission Meetings	Travel-related costs for members (lodging, per diem, mileage, airfare, etc.) (<i>July, Sept, Nov, Jan, March, May</i>)	\$10,000
General Operating Expenses	Printing, conference calls, supplies, etc.	\$3,000
Staff Travel & Training	Registration Fees, Travel-related costs workshops, tuition reimbursement	\$6,500
Communications	Annual Report	\$700
Education Programs	<i>NAWJ 2016</i>	\$1,500
	<i>Appellate Conference</i>	\$1,000
	<i>Fall Conference (Sept. 2016)</i>	\$1,500
	<i>DMCJA Conference</i>	\$2,500
Sponsorships/Events	Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception (not this year)	\$0
	Women's History/Legislative Reception	\$1,500
	Tribal State Court Consortium	
	<i>Tribal Judges to Judicial College</i>	\$2,000
	<i>TSCC Regional Meetings / Fall Mtg</i>	\$3,000
	<i>Tribal Judges to SCJA Conference</i>	\$1,500
	<i>Tribal Judges to Fall Conference</i>	\$1,000
	Washington Initiative for Diversity	
	<i>Legal Exec Summit</i>	\$2,000
	ICW&G Committee Mtg Support	\$300
	Tech Law Summit for Girls	\$1,000
Requests	Translation of Forms, Instructions	\$11,000

Starting Budget	\$50,000
All Allocated Commission Expenses	\$50,000
<i>Balance</i>	\$0

Updated 5.5.17

STOP BUDGET FFY16

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Total = \$144,038		\$106,268	\$37,770
		<small>(max amt)</small>	<small>(min amt)</small>
		DV Projects	SA Projects
Salaries & Benefits	Staff	\$32,604	\$10,777
Office Supplies, Copies, Printing	Supplies, Copies, etc. <i>Benchguides (printed, flash drive, DVD/CD)</i>	\$2,500	\$500
Staff Training & Education	Staff to attend local and national conferences & training events	\$500	\$500
Committee Meetings	Support travel-related & pro tem costs for in-person Committee mtgs <i>DVPT Advisory Group (BIP WAC revisions)</i>	\$3,500	\$500
Scholarship Support	Scholarships for judicial officers & court staff to attend trainings. Covers lodging, airfare/mileage, meals OR Staff may calculate costs & provide a maximum coverage amount Enhancing Judicial Skills in DV (Judicial Officers) Continuing Judicial Skills in DV (Judicial Officers) NCJFCJ National Conference (Judicial Officers) Children's Justice Conference (Court Personnel)	\$4,000	\$0
Education Programs	Monies for support of educational sessions <i>Judicial College (January 2017)</i> <i>SCJA Spring Conference (April 2017)</i> <i>Fall Conference (September 2017) (G&J FY 18 Budget)</i> Other: <i>Line Staff Training</i>	\$2,500 \$2,000 \$0	\$0 \$500 \$0 \$9,400
Requests	Requests from others for support <i>Mission Creek 2017</i> <i>DV Symposium (Judicial Officers & Court Personnel)</i> <i>SA Benchguide - KCSARC - Bench Guide Update Management</i> <i>SA Benchguide - Chapter (Claudia Bayliff)</i> <i>SA Benchguide - Editor (Judge Yule)</i> <i>Translation of DV/SA Forms, Instructions</i>	\$1,500 \$10,000 \$0	 \$7,600 \$5,000 \$5,000 \$0
Legislative Requests	<i>HB 1163 - Convene workgroups, write legislative reports (contract staff time)</i>	\$45,000	
SUB-Totals per portion of grant		\$104,104	\$39,777
Total		\$143,881	
Non-dedicated Funds		\$157	

Updated 5.5.2017

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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March 29, 2017

VIA E-MAIL – atj@wsba.org

Mr. Geoff Revelle
Chair, Access to Justice Board
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

Re: Comments to Draft State Plan for the Delivery of Civil Legal Aid

Dear Mr. Revelle:

Thank you for the opportunity provide feedback on the Access to Justice Board’s draft 2017 – 2019 State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid to Low Income People.

The mission of the Gender and Justice Commission is to promote gender equity in the system of law and justice. The Commission focuses that mission with its commitment to improving access to the courts for women and girls who experience barriers to accessing the justice system – with particular focus on women and girls of color, women and girls living in poverty, and LGBTQ individuals.

The Commission applauds the State Plan’s stated intent to close the justice gap by “identifying and challenging structurally radicalized systems and practices that disproportionately affect minority clients and client communities.” One addition that we would like to encourage you to consider is incorporating specific reference to gender equity in the plan.

The 2015 Washington State Civil Legal Needs Study Update found that 100% of low-income Washington residents who have been a victim of domestic and/or sexual violence will experience important civil legal problems, compared with 71% of all low-income residents. These individuals experience an average of 19.7 legal problems per household.


The vast majority (83.5%) of the domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims who responded to the survey were women. The Study also found that low-income people who have been a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and who identify as African American,

Mr. Geoff Revelle
Chair, Access to Justice Board
March 29, 2017
Page Two of Two

Hispanic/Latino, or LGBTQ are “more than twice as likely to experience discrimination and unfair treatment than members of the overall low-income population.”

Adding reference to gender equity in the State Plan need not dilute the focus on racial equity. Instead, it provides the opportunity to bring forth the reality that many of these issues are intersectional. People of color who seek civil legal aid services are often women, who are also experiencing legal issues related to gender bias. The Commission hopes that you will consider this recommendation, and we would welcome further conversation about this important issue.

Sincerely,



Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Chair, Gender and Justice Commission
Washington State Supreme Court

SGM:lz

cc: Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, AOC

Domestic Violence Committee Recent and Ongoing Projects

1. Domestic Violence Manual for Judges (2016).
 - This effort was led by Editor Ms. Grace Huang, and the DV Committee assisted in coordinating the project.

2. YWCA Judicial Luncheon in Spokane
 - Judge Jasprica and Mr. David Ward presented a 90 minutes talk to 25 judges on the newly released DV Manual. There was good discussion, walked through updates, addendums, and sections. The event was requested and coordinated by the YWCA in Spokane. Judge Tremaine also attended and added content for the tribal part of it. This program could be replicated in other counties.

3. Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment/Batterer's Intervention Programs
 - On-going discussion about the best response to the negative 2013 WSIPP Report on DV treatment, which included recommendation to the Education Committee for DMCJA presentation in 2015 on that topic.
 - Monitoring progress of DSHS workgroup that is making changes to the WAC as it relates to Batterer's Intervention Programs.

4. Firearm Forfeiture Best Practices
 - On-going project to provide regional training on Firearm Forfeiture best practices. National, state, and local groups are working on this issue. There have been planning challenges related to geography, funding, and local/regional politics. Retired Judge Riehl agreed to be the traveling regional emcee. The Committee needs to identify next steps in the planning process.

Sexual Violence Committee Report and Future Projects

Emily Cordo, Outgoing SV Committee Chair

Feedback on SV Committee Structure and Function

This committee has been functioning minimally in recent months. This seems largely the result of two issues: (1) the committee has been pretty sparsely staffed due to staffing vacancy, and (2) the main project we were working on was planning some education events, but that task was absorbed by the Education committee, leaving us without a reason to meet.

The question of merging DV/SV into one committee raises a broader issue relating to how the G&J's committees are structured. While some committees are project-focused (education, gender study) others are issue-focused (DV, incarcerated women/girls). It appears to me this occurred due to committees being created on an ad hoc basis, over time, and then becoming permanent, as opposed to being the result of any affirmative preference for that structure. To the extent that the Commission believes this hybrid system is effective, with the understanding that some committees' work will wax and wane over time, I think there is value to having the SV committee separate, because the fact that the committee is not working on any substantial project now does not mean they should not be or will not be in the future. I do have concerns about merging DV and SV, because SV considerations tend to get swamped by stronger interest in/experience with DV. Now that Kelley is staff rather than a Commission member, and I'm leaving (as the two people who were brought on with SV-specific expertise), I think the Commission would be at risk of losing focus on this issue.

However, an alternative might be to change the scope of the DV group to be a more general Gender Based Violence committee, but create subcommittees dealing with those two issues (SV/DV) as well as subcommittees to address trafficking, stalking, etc, with each of those subcommittees planning to be activated as needed to address new issues/projects as they arise. In order for this alternative to be successful, the Commission will need to make a deliberate effort to bring in new members who are specifically interested in sexual violence, trafficking, etc. Regardless of how the committees are structured, finding members who are passionate about these issues is really the critical first step in ensuring the issues aren't overlooked.

Future SV Projects Suggested

Regarding future projects, my personal belief (one which was broadly supported in several of the DMCMA trainings last month) is that it would benefit petitioners, court staff, and judges alike if we could create movement toward the creation of a single, unified petition for all civil protection order cases. The petitioner could simply describe the relevant facts, and the court can determine which kind of PO relief is appropriate for those facts (in contrast to the current system, in which court staff feels pressured to advise pro se petitioners about which kind of PO to file, and if they or the petitioner pick the wrong one it creates all sorts of problems). I'm happy to discuss this further.

Also regarding future projects, I strongly support more trainings on the neurobiology of trauma for judges and others, particularly trainings that are mandatory (not allowing the people who

most need the training to opt out) and repeated (it is a complex subject applicable to every area of law, and should not be something people are trained in once, and then they put away the workshop materials and forget about it).

Finally, I believe the family law and GAL systems are rife with problems, in terms of gender bias, discrimination against victims of gender-based violence, and lack of accountability. I do not have a specific project in mind, but I do believe that these systems are deeply problematic, and even small changes in this area could have an enormous impact on Washington women and families.

Future SV Trainings Suggested

Regarding trainings, I am always in favor of more trainings on SAPOs, and POs generally. One issue that came up in the DMCMA trainings was failure to set full hearings when TPOs are denied. This is not discretionary in the SAPO or DVPO statute. This is definitely something judges should know, but I'm not sure if that issue or a collection of little procedural issues would be enough to build a whole training around.

From my perspective, there are a lot of small procedural issues like that, which would be important subjects to include if you were doing a broader substantive training on (SA)POs, but the more fundamental issue affecting litigants continues to be gender bias. There continues to be a profound skepticism regarding women's honesty that is still deeply embedded, and it affects judges just as much as it does jurors, GALs, and others in the system. I don't know if anyone does this sort of training, but what I think is most needed is a training that directly takes on the beliefs that half of or most rapes are fabricated, that women make up DV to get an advantage in custody cases, etc. I know there are trainings that seek to actively un-do racial bias, but I'm not sure if the same is available for gender bias. If that exists, our courts need it.

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May 8, 2017

Honorable Patty Murray
Honorable Maria Cantwell
Honorable Susan DelBene
Honorable Rick Larsen
Honorable Jaime Herrera Buetler
Honorable Dan Newhouse
Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Honorable Derek Kilmer
Honorable Pramila Jayapal
Honorable Dave Reichert
Honorable Adam Smith
Honorable Denny Heck

Re: Violence Against Women Act Funding

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The mission of the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission is to promote gender equity in the system of law and justice. Violence against women and girls is a gender equity issue and it continues to be a pervasive problem nationally. In Washington State, the Commission works to address barriers to accessing the state courts for women and girls who experience violence.

Our nation has made progress in understanding and addressing sexual and domestic violence because we have made a national, ongoing, annual investment. With the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the infusion of federal funds fostered unprecedented coordination among frontline responders to domestic violence and sexual assault crises: police officers, victim service providers, prosecutors, judges, and the criminal and civil justice systems.

Those federal funds support critical programs at the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) that provide safety, access to services, and justice for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This includes the STOP program (VAWA, DOJ). It improves the

Re: Violence Against Women Act Funding

May 8, 2017

Page 2

criminal justice and wider community response by allowing states and communities to develop coordinated community responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

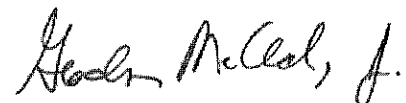
The Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission, through the Administrative Office of the Courts, assumed responsibility for administering the STOP grant allocation to Washington Courts 16 years ago. These funds have allowed for Washington Courts to respond to and prioritize the development of sustainable services, programs, and practices in adjudicating domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

According to the 2015 Washington State Courts Annual Caseload reports, Superior Courts saw 2,315 felony sex crimes cases filed; 6,343 felony assault cases filed; 15,797 domestic violence cases filed; and 2,925 civil protection orders filed. In Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, 7,691 civil anti-harassment/stalking protection orders were filed; 1,755 domestic violence protection orders were filed; 73 sexual assault protection orders were filed; 3,388 full orders were granted, 271 were transferred to superior court, and 5,467 were denied or dismissed; 8,148 ex parte hearings were conducted; and 7,425 full order hearings were conducted.

Funds have been used to develop statewide model policies and procedures related to these issues, which have increased communication and collaboration among judicial officers and those served by the courts and who work within our court system. We continue to address statewide needs, while offering assistance to local jurisdictions as they address local issues related to domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. None of this would have been accomplished—and little of it will be able to continue without STOP grant funding.

Funding cuts would erode our state's progress on the critical issue of addressing violence against women. The Gender and Justice Commission supports full funding for VAWA and related programs.

Sincerely,



Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Chair, Gender and Justice Commission
Washington State Supreme Court

cc: Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, AOC