Judicial Information System Committee Meeting March 6, 2015

<u>DECISION POINT</u> – Increase in JIS Assessment

MOTION:

I move to increase the current JIS assessment from $17 to $23 and reevaluate assessment in fiscal year 2024.

I. BACKGROUND

RCW 2.68 gives the Supreme Court authority to periodically adjust the assessments established in RCW 2.68.040 for inflationary purposes. The assessment established by RCW 2.68.040(a), initially set at $10, has been amended twice since 1994.

The current assessment generates approximately $16.5 million per year. Monies are deposited into a dedicated account for use by the Administrative Office of the Courts for the operation and administration of information services. Funds are used for ongoing information technology operations and for short and long-term projects.

Since 2009 the state legislature has taken over $22 million from the account. This combined with the major projects authorized by the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) will create a deficit in the account during the 2017-2019 biennium.

II. DISCUSSION

In order to continue and complete the projects authorized by the JISC alternative funding must be identified. Funding from the state general fund is not an option. Financing, as an option, is highly unlikely.

OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED

Failure to increase the JIS assessment, at a minimum, will result in a substantial delay in previously authorized projects.