



# Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission

## STOP GRANT TO THE COURTS OVERVIEW

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

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Washington State Supreme Court
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Jefferson County Juvenile Court
- Honorable Vickie Churchill**  
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Columbia Legal Services
- Honorable Sara Derr**  
Spokane County District Court
- Honorable Joan DuBuque**  
King County Superior Court
- Honorable Ruth Gordon**  
Jefferson County Clerk
- Ms. Margaret Hobart**  
WA State Coalition Against DV
- Honorable Cynthia Jordan**  
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Benton and Franklin Superior Courts
- Honorable Alicia Nakata**  
Chelan County District Court
- Ms. Leslie W. Owen**  
Northwest Justice Project
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- Honorable Ann Schindler**  
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- Honorable Jane M. Smith**  
Colville Tribal Court of Appeals
- Mr. David Ward**  
Legal Voice
- Honorable Chris Wickham**  
Thurston County Superior Court
- Ms. Myra Downing, Executive Dir.**  
Administrative Office of the Courts

Since 2001, \$1,267,387 in Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) STOP (Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors) Grant to the Courts funding has been administered by the Gender and Justice Commission under the auspices of the Board for Judicial Administration. Funding is passed through to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) by Interagency Agreements with the Office of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED).

| Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Contract Dates       | Grant Award to AOC    |
|--|-----------------------|
| FFY 2001 (10/01/01-03/31/03)                   | \$126,827.00          |
| FFY 2002 (10/01/02-03/31/04)                   | \$125,067.00          |
| FFY 2003 (11/01/03-03/31/05)                   | \$117,772.00          |
| FFY 2004 (11/01/04-03/31/06)                   | \$104,985.00          |
| FFY 2005 (01/01/06-04/30/07)                   | \$105,885.00          |
| FFY 2006 (01/01/07-04/30/08)                   | \$115,914.00          |
| FFY 2007 (01/01/08-02/28/09)                   | \$102,453.00          |
| FFY 2008 (01/01/09-03/31/10)                   | \$103,306.00          |
| American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 | \$128,346.00          |
| FFY 2009 (01/01/10-03/31/11)                   | \$112,519.00          |
| FFY 2010 (04/01/11 – 03/30/12)                 | \$124,313.00          |
| <b>Total Grant Funds to the Courts</b>         | <b>\$1,267,387.00</b> |

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is sent out annually to Washington State judiciary, court administrators, and county clerks and is posted on the Washington Courts' Website.

Funding is limited to programs and projects that courts can implement to provide increased safety and justice for adult victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. A minimum of two and maximum of ten projects are funded each year.

The Gender and Justice Commission Grant Evaluation Committee has reviewed 81 responses to the Request for Proposals and awarded funding for 47 court projects.

The Commission has utilized remaining grant funds for enhanced judicial education, Full Faith and Credit for protection order projects, domestic violence forms improvement projects, local domestic violence summit support, and grant management.

The Commission encourages courts to replicate previously-funded projects and to coordinate on regional training programs. Attached is a list of projects funded each year.

Further information about the projects can be received by contacting the court administrator at the court receiving the grant, or by contacting Myra Downing at (360) 705-5290 or [Myra.Downing@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Myra.Downing@courts.wa.gov).

**The first STOP Grant to the Courts Request for Proposal was sent out to the Washington Courts in 2001. Funds were awarded to five (5) courts, and the following projects were completed in 2002-2003:**

1. A coordinated judicial response to domestic violence was developed in Whatcom County, and the *Whatcom County Judicial Guidelines for Domestic Violence Matters* was produced. (\$15,000)
2. A supervised visitation center was established and victim services were provided in Island County Superior Court. (\$30,000)
3. A Seattle Municipal Court information brochure was created for immigrant and refugee domestic violence victims in 11 languages—see the Seattle Municipal Court Website, at [www.cityofseattle.net/courts/prob/dvBrochure.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/courts/prob/dvBrochure.htm). (\$23,000)
4. Domestic violence training was provided for pro-tem judges and judicial officers of the Tacoma Municipal Court. (\$14,500)
5. The services of Clark County Domestic Violence Court were enhanced and evaluated, and safety kits were provided to victims through the YWCA. (\$24,327)

**In 2003-2004, contracts were awarded to six (6) courts, and the following projects were completed:**

6. A two-day advanced Domestic Violence training was conducted in King County for 50 judicial officers on March 7-8, 2004. This training was modeled after the National Judicial Institute's program *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases*. (\$31,500)
7. *Toward Commonality of Understanding: Domestic Violence/Child Protective Services* Symposia were conducted on May 30, 2003, and March 26, 2004. These state-wide programs were co-sponsored by the Supreme Court, Department of Children's Administration, and Office of Public Defense and addressed domestic violence issues within families where there is also child abuse and neglect. (\$18,000)

8. A part-time Domestic Violence advocate was provided for the Douglas County District Court and safety kits were provided to victims of domestic violence. (\$16,735)
9. A Coordinated and Collaborative Domestic Violence Justice System was developed in Yakima County. (\$15,700)
10. Coordinated domestic violence training was conducted for pro-tem judges and judicial officers in Tacoma Municipal and Pierce County District Courts. (\$11,000)
11. Security equipment was purchased for Lincoln County District Court and a part-time, court-based domestic violence advocate was provided. (\$10,835)

**In 2004-2005, contracts were awarded to seven (7) courts, and the following projects were completed:**

12. Court clerk time and services to domestic violence victims were to be increased in Asotin County District Court. (\$10,000) **Note:** Contracting issues prevented this project from being implemented. A revised proposal was submitted for 2005-2006 funding.
13. Douglas County District Court staff and victim education was conducted, and court-based domestic violence victim services were increased at three rural locations. (\$21,463)
14. A domestic violence video on court protection orders and Pierce County Superior Court proceedings were produced in both English and Spanish. Court training was also increased. (\$20,000)
15. Stevens County Superior Court security was improved, including the creation of a secured victim waiting area and the addition of a security officer during domestic violence hearings. (\$31,128)
16. A domestic violence protection order clinic was established in Walla Walla County Superior Court. (\$13,000)
17. Court security equipment was installed in Lincoln County District Court. (\$2,042)
18. Work to finalize the Washington State Supreme Court and the Department of Children's Administration's Domestic Violence/Child Protection Services (Domestic Violence/CPS) Protocol Project was continued. (\$8,000)

**In 2005-2006, contracts were awarded to eight (8) courts, and the following projects were completed:**

19. Asotin County District Court implemented a domestic violence advocacy project, which provided domestic violence education for court personnel and legal clinics for victims. (\$10,000)
20. Clark County Superior Court provided regional training on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking for judges in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties and adapted the Pierce County protection order videotape and translated it into Russian. (\$18,407)

21. King County Superior Court provided two-day domestic violence training for 50 judges at the Regional Justice Center in Kent. Training included an update on the Domestic Violence/Child Protective Services (DV/CPS) protocol. (\$6,048)
22. Kitsap County District Court conducted one-day regional domestic violence training for judicial officers and pro-tem judges in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties. (\$6,180)
23. Walla Walla County Superior Court continued the Domestic Violence Protection Order Clinic and added services to help victims with Parenting Plans. (\$8,900)
24. The Washington State Supreme Court and the Department of Children's Administration continued the Domestic Violence/Child Protective Services (CPS) Protocol Project, supported the Statewide Domestic Violence/CPS Leadership Network, and provided regional court support. (\$15,450)
25. Whatcom County Superior Court implemented a Court-Based Domestic Violence Advocate Program to provide "on-call" assistance with the protection order process, court hearings, and follow-up civil legal needs in dissolution and child custody cases. (\$20,000)
26. Yakima County Superior Court developed procedures and began coordinating court Orders for Protection, reconciling conflicting orders, and providing multi-disciplinary training. (\$30,000)

**In 2006-2007, contracts were awarded to nine (9) courts for the following projects:**

27. Asotin County District Court continued the protection order clinics for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and continued to increase court/judicial education. (\$5,000) Their FY04 contract was amended to include these additional funds.
28. Chelan County Superior Court established a court-based domestic violence advocacy program. (\$12,976)
29. Kitsap County Clerk's Office purchased court clerk office equipment and pro-rated share of security for the new Kitsap Special Assault Investigation & Victim's Services (SAIVS) Center. (\$10,459)
30. The Lewis County Clerk and Superior Court produced 1000 manuals of educational materials in English and Spanish, to assist domestic violence victims in navigating the court system and accessing resources. They also increased court/judicial education. (\$9,700)
31. Pierce County Superior Court developed a system (policies and protocols) to identify and fast-track cases in the Unified Family Court where there are domestic violence law enforcement reports, convictions, and protection orders involving the participants. (\$12,600)
32. Walla Walla County Superior Court continued the Domestic Violence Parenting Plan Clinics to assist victims. (\$3,900)

33. Whatcom County District Court provided training to coordinate domestic violence response between courts and probation in Whatcom County and surrounding areas, and sent two court professionals to the District Attorney's National Conference on Domestic Violence. (\$7,120)
34. Whatcom County Clerk's Office implemented court-based domestic violence advocacy and created a manual for providing court-based legal advocacy for civil legal matters. (\$15,750)
35. Yakima County Superior Clerk established a Domestic Violence Unit with staff duties dedicated to audit, identify, and reconcile conflicting domestic violence orders and develop a specialty court docket management system. Funds from the FY04 grant were reallocated to purchase the imaging software required for this project. (\$22,115)

**In 2007-2008, contracts were awarded to eight (8) courts for the following projects:**

36. Asotin County District Court is continuing the Protection Order Clinics for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. (\$5,425)
37. Clallam County Superior Court is improving court security and sending their new security officer to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training. (\$5,657)
38. Clark County District Court is creating a *SAFE* room (private room) and informative video for Domestic Violence victims filing protection orders at the Clark County courthouse. (\$9,350)
39. King County Judicial Administration (Superior Court) is providing a series of trainings and workshops focused on supervised visitation, safety, and post-separation domestic violence for court staff, judicial officers, supervised visitation providers, and court social workers. They are also developing a curriculum and providing training for courthouse facilitators. (\$12,500)
40. Spokane County District Court is providing a court-based domestic violence advocate for Mental Health Court and developing a manual for mental health DV advocacy. (\$26,287)
41. The Court of Appeals, Division III (Spokane) is providing training on Domestic Violence in the Workplace for judges and other court personnel. (\$1,085)
42. Walla Walla County Superior Court is hiring an on-call attorney to provide emergency legal advice to DV advocates in the Protection Order and Parenting Plan Clinics for the victims they serve. (\$6,000)
43. Whatcom County Superior Court established a clinic to assist DV victims with processing Parenting Plans and domestic relations legal paperwork. The Clinic will be staffed by volunteer paralegals supervised by an attorney. (\$22,737)

**In 2008-2009, contracts were awarded to four (4) courts for the following projects:**

44. Asotin County District Court will hire a part time probation officer that will focus on cases involving violence against women. (\$10,800)
45. Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court will purchase security wands, create policies and train staff, develop and print victim information packets, and select and purchase DV and stalking videos in 3 languages. (\$3,200)
46. Spokane County District Court will hire an advocate to assist victims of domestic violence within the criminal/civil justice system by attending court proceedings, assisting in document and case preparation, and ensuring linkages with community resources. (\$20,800)
47. Yakima County Superior Court will provide partial funding for a domestic violence coordinator to facilitate the reconciliation of inconsistent orders issued in different judicial jurisdictions involving the same party. (\$15,000)

**In 2009-2010, contracts were awarded for the following four (4) court projects:**

48. King County Superior Court and Department of Judicial Administration will complete the CPS and LE Responses for Confidential Housing Programs Guideline Document and revise the King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guidelines. In addition, they will conduct five trainings on the guidelines. (\$12,593)
49. Sexual Violence Law Center will begin the data gathering and development of the content needed to create a sexual assault benchguide. (\$22,000)
50. Lakewood Municipal Court will use their funds, along with local resources, to purchase an x-ray machine. (\$7,000)
51. The Gender and Justice Commission is working on addressing conflicting orders.

**In 2009-2010, three projects were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:**

52. King County District Court hired a court analyst to develop a data collection system that will help the courts to evaluate their current process for managing DV Cases. (\$17,490)
53. Snohomish County Clerk's Office hired a staff person to work exclusively within the DV Division. (\$51,000)
54. Thurston County Superior Court hired a DV legal assistant to document court practices and coordinate the development of protocol that will address conflicting court orders. (\$59,856)
55. In addition to the contracted projects described above, the Gender and Justice Commission has used STOP Grant funding to support the following judicial education programs and domestic violence projects:

- ▶ *Non-Stranger Rape and the Neurobiology of Trauma.*  
This three-hour program was conducted at the 46<sup>th</sup> Washington Judicial Conference, September 23, 2003. Following the program, the National Judicial Education Program video curriculum *Understanding Sexual Violence: the Judge's Role in Sexual Assault and Stranger and Non-Stranger Rape Cases* was provided to each county law library, and a Domestic Violence version was sent to each superior court presiding judge.
- ▶ *King County's Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop.*  
Grant funds facilitated 13 primarily rural court judges' attendance at the King County training, March 7-8, 2004, by providing travel and lodging scholarships.
- ▶ *Immigrants, Domestic Violence and Firearms.*  
This three-hour plenary session, based on the National Association of Women Judges model curriculum was presented at the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association Spring Conference on June 8, 2004.
- ▶ *From Gay Marriage to Domestic Violence to Hate Crimes: What You Need to Know About the Cases Coming to Your Court.*  
STOP Grant funds paid for the domestic violence faculty for this three-hour program at the 47<sup>th</sup> Washington Judicial Conference, September 21, 2004.
- ▶ *Extending Project Passport/ Full Faith and Credit.*  
STOP grant funds were used to send additional team members to the National Center for State Courts regional meeting on extending Project Passport in October 2004. Funding supported continuing meetings to revise and distribute the protection order pattern forms. Grant funds will provide support for continuing meetings of the state and tribal court leaders to implement recommendations from the 2001 Northwest Regional Meeting on Full Faith and Credit and Extending Project Passport meetings.
- ▶ *Native American Summit on Gender, Family, and Community Violence.*  
The October 12-13, 2005, summit received some STOP Grant funding. A special session was included on Full Faith and Credit for Domestic Violence Protection Orders.
- ▶ *Domestic Violence and Firearms: A National Summit for Community Safety*  
Grant funding sent a four-person team led by Judges Christopher Wickham and Brett Buckley in 2006.
- ▶ *Domestic Violence Manual for Judges*  
STOP grant funds paid for the legal research to update the 2001 version of the manual. STOP grant funds were used to distribute the 2006 manual to domestic violence advocates and legal services agencies.
- ▶ Purchased reference materials for the courts, including copies of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence *Fatality Review Reports* and the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Grant publication, *Guidelines for Domestic Violence Protection and Anti-harassment Orders*. Distributed *Full Faith and Credit: A Passport to Safety* to new judicial officers attending the annual judicial college.

- ▶ Provided Judicial Access Browser court-based training.
- ▶ Sent three judicial officers to the National Judicial Institute pilot program on *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Elder Abuse Cases*, October 7-9, 2007, Fort Lauderdale.
- ▶ In 2008, provided funding for both *Domestic Violence Summit* in Spokane and for *Native American Domestic Violence Conference*.
- ▶ *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases*. Since 2001, scholarships have been provided to send judicial officers to the 2.5-day Judicial Institute *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases* workshops sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. By December 2009, STOP Grant, discretionary grant, and Gender and Justice Commission funds provided scholarships to **158** Washington State and Tribal Court judicial officers to attend the basic and advanced training.
- ▶ Provided funding for judicial officers and court staff to attend the *Children and Families Experiencing Domestic Violence Conference* held in Seattle Washington in 2009.
- ▶ Provided webcasts on Cyberstalking to all court levels for judicial officers in 2009 – 2010.
- ▶ Provided training on *Respecting Best Practices in Challenging DV Sentencing Cases* to the District and Municipal Court Judicial Officers in 2009.
- ▶ Offer a domestic violence course at Judicial College that includes the simulated exercise “In her Shoes.”

For information on any of these projects, contact Myra Downing at [Myra.Downing@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Myra.Downing@courts.wa.gov) or call (360) 705-5290.

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