

RESOLUTION of the BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
of the State of Washington

In Support of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Court Education

WHEREAS, the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) is the principal policy making body for the Judicial Branch; and

WHEREAS, the BJA has established the Court Education Committee (CEC) as a standing committee of the BJA; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the CEC is to improve the quality of justice in Washington by fostering excellence in the courts through effective education and training; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the CEC is to enhance the performance of the judicial system as a whole by continuously improving the personal and professional competence of all persons performing Judicial Branch functions through court system education and training; and

WHEREAS, there is a current trend of Judges and court personnel reaching the age of retirement and being replaced by new Judges and personnel, who need education and training to perform their functions at an adequate level; and

WHEREAS, the availability of court system education and training should not be dependent on any court's location or budget; and

WHEREAS, new Judges and personnel sometimes have to wait up to a year to receive education and training for the new position; and

WHEREAS, the amount of funding provided to the Judicial Branch for education and training has remained unchanged over a decade; and

WHEREAS, the cost of education and training has increased annually; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is responsible for setting the budget for the Administrative Office of the Courts to support Judicial Branch education and training;

WHEREAS, the BJA has created the Court System Education Funding Taskforce to work with the BJA and the CEC in procuring adequate and sustainable funding for ongoing education and training of court system personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board for Judicial Administration:

- (1) Supports the work of the Court Education Committee and the necessity of well-educated and trained Judicial Branch personnel;

- (2) Supports the efforts of the CEC and the Court System Education Funding Taskforce to procure sustainable funding for court personnel education and training;
- (3) Encourages the State to enhance professional competence at the Judicial Branch through increased education and training funding.
- (4) Recommends additional funding to support the creation of new programs which would be accessible to all court personnel, regardless of location or an individual court's budget to attend education and training programs; and
- (5) Understands that the need of the Judicial Branch, to train and educate new Judges and court personnel, exceed its ability to effectively do so within the current budget.