



November 8, 2019

Dear Partners in Providing Justice:

RE: Support Legislative Funding for Court System Online training

The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) needs your support to advocate for funding a comprehensive online training system for a new wave of judges and court system personnel.

The Administrative Office of the Courts' 2020 budget request includes funds to support this judicial branch priority. Please reach out to your local legislators and ask them to support this important funding request.

Funding for court system training has remained flat for over a decade while the needs and costs for those essential services have increased dramatically.

The Washington Judiciary is requesting \$207,000 in 2020 and approximately \$550,000 in the next Biennium to ensure new judicial officers and court personnel get timely access to the training needed to effectively serve the public. Funding will ensure equal access for small and rural courts that struggle to afford sending judges and court staff to training opportunities. Funds will be used to develop the statewide online delivery system to provide immediate and sustainable training opportunities to all courts.

Individuals and communities benefit from and are better able to access critical court services when we have trained judicial officers and court personnel. Your voice is vital. Please use the enclosed materials in your efforts to support these requests.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Fairhurst *Gregory Gonzales*

Mary E. Fairhurst
BJA Chair
Chief Justice Supreme Court

Gregory Gonzales
BJA Member Chair Judge
Clark County Superior Court

BJA Court System Education Funding Task Force Chairs: Judge Joe Burrowes, Judge Doug Fair



Please Support The Funding Request By:

- 1) Meeting with local legislators to support this effort.
- 2) Asking your county/city executives and commissions/council members to adopt funding for training for judges and court personnel as a legislative priority.
- 3) Sharing these materials with your membership and colleagues and requesting that they contact local stakeholders.
- 4) Sharing personal and community experiences with key stakeholders to highlight how funding can address local needs and benefit the community. For example, you might discuss:
 - A time that training would have helped provide greater access to the judicial process.
 - How training judicial officers and court personnel benefits the individuals that use court services.
- 5) During the legislative session, respond to emails requesting targeted outreach and support.

Materials Provided:

- 1) **Fact sheet** can be shared with local legislators and stakeholders.
- 2) **Talking points** serve as a guide to consistently share the main points of the funding request. Please complement these by sharing local stories and needs.
- 3) **Frequently asked questions and answers** are available to assist in your communications. We will update this sheet as needed.
- 4) Please complete a **BJA Task Force Legislative Response Form** after you contact your legislator so that we can respond to your efforts and ongoing communication needs. These are attached and can be found on the BJA webpage below.

All materials can be found online: http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_bja/

Questions: Contact Jeanne Englert, Jeanne.englert@courts.wa.gov or 360-705-5207.