

RESOLUTION of the BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
of the State of Washington
On Drug Courts and Other Problem-Solving Courts

WHEREAS, Drug Courts have proven to be a highly effective strategy for reducing alcohol and other drug use and recidivism among criminal offenders with chemical dependency and addiction problems; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Drug courts, the principles and methods of Problem-Solving Courts¹ have been shown to offer a very promising strategy for addressing a wide variety of other case types in which addiction, mental health or other behavioral issues are a significant causative factor; and

WHEREAS, broad support exists, both in Washington and other states, for the principles and methods commonly used in Problem-Solving Courts, including ongoing judicial leadership, integration of treatment services with judicial case processing, close monitoring of and immediate response to behavior, multidisciplinary involvement, and collaboration with community-based and government organizations; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), the National Drug Court Institute, the National Center for State Courts and others, drug court research has resulted in many areas of consensus regarding the best practices for drug courts; and

WHEREAS, the Race and Criminal Justice Task Force² has recommended that Washington Courts expand the use of Therapeutic (i.e., Problem-Solving) Courts as one way to address racial disparity in the administration of justice in criminal cases,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board for Judicial Administration strongly supports Problem-Solving Courts in general and Drug Courts in particular; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board for Judicial Administration supports:

- 1) The development and expansion of Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts in Washington.
- 2) Adequate funding for these courts.
- 3) The development, identification and adoption of best practices and promising practices in Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts.
- 4) The collection of data through the Washington State Center for Court Research on Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts to evaluate and monitor outcomes and performance.
- 5) Appropriate training for judicial officers and staff on the principles and methods of Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts.
- 6) The education of law students, lawyers and judges concerning the existence and principles of Drug Courts and other Problem-Solving Courts.

¹ Problem-Solving Courts are also often referred to as Therapeutic Courts.

² The Task Force is a collaborative effort by Washington's three law schools, initiated by the Seattle University School of Law's Korematsu Center.