

Research/ Data Collection Proposal on Jury Diversification

Submitted by: Judge Steve Rosen, Seattle Municipal Court, with support from the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission

Date:

Goal/Intent of Project: The goal of the project is to better understand if there is a demographic problem with racial and/or other demographic representation of potential jurors who report for jury service in Washington. Currently, no data exists on the demographics of racial minority jury representation in our state. By tracking the current demographics we will be able to get a baseline on racial minority juror participation that will help identify whether a problem exists, and to the extent that it does exist, the data will help in both making policy changes and tracking the effectiveness of those policies.

Project Summary: We propose having the Washington State Center for Court Research develop a survey that asks jurors, various presiding judges and/or jury coordinators around the state to administer a voluntary demographic survey of jurors who report for jury service. We anticipate that the survey would be administered for a period of time to be determined by AOC staff that would result in statistically significant results. AOC staff would draft the survey and analyze the results. Our preference would be to have the survey go to all jurors in the state, but we understand that might be cost prohibitive.

Data Analysis Required by WSCCR:

Creation and design of survey—likely to be creation of scantron

- Receiving and processing completed surveys
- Coordinating distribution and collection of completed surveys
- Resource for courts' questions about surveys
- Compiling data into a presentable format
- *Some tasks may be completed by other staff within AOC or contracted out*

Expertise: Knowledge of the proper ways of identifying race/ethnicity; ability to use software to create scantron; ability to compile data into presentable format

Time: Estimated 120 hrs over 6 months