

APR 29 2015 MT
Ronald R. Carpenter
Clerk

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF)
THE WASHINGTON STATE CENTER FOR)
COURT RESEARCH)
_____)

A M E N D E D
O R D E R

NO. 25700-B-556

WHEREAS, the Washington State Constitution establishes the judicial system as an equal, independent branch of government;

WHEREAS, preserving the independence of the judicial branch requires that the judiciary develop and adopt policies based upon informed, independent, and empirical research;

WHEREAS, informed, independent, and empirical research enables the judiciary to analyze and improve court operations, processes, and programs to ensure equal justice, and participate as an equal partner in government affairs;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Office of the Courts, pursuant to statute, is required to “compile statistical and other data and make reports of the business transacted by the courts” and “examine the administrative methods and systems employed in the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for the improvement of the same;”

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court and other judicial branch leaders rely upon informed, independent, and empirical research to reach major policy decisions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize the value of independent judicial branch research that is conducted by the Washington State Center for Court Research as an integral function of the judicial branch;

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WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for a mechanism to evaluate and respond to executive and legislative branch research affecting the operation of the judicial branch;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That a Washington State Center for Court Research, within the Administrative Office of the Courts, is hereby established to provide informed, independent, and empirical research for the judicial branch to improve equal administration of justice by conducting research necessary to analyze court operations, processes, and programs; by facilitating strategic planning and the adoption and implementation of Board for Judicial Administration resolutions; by communicating research findings to the judicial branch; and by reviewing and commenting on court system related research conducted by the legislative and executive branches.

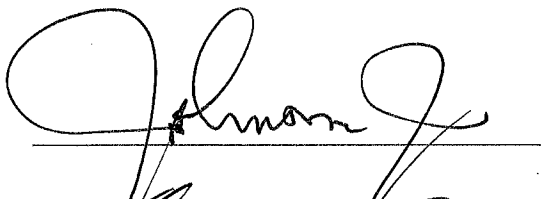
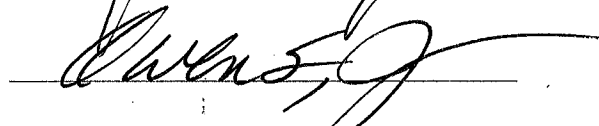
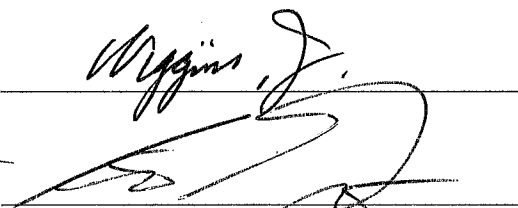
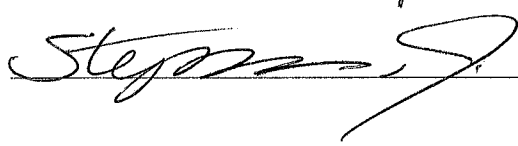
That an advisory board for the Washington State Center for Court Research is established by the Supreme Court. The advisory board shall provide guidance to the Center on implementation of research projects, and facilitate coordination and communication with stakeholders. The chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court shall appoint the members of the advisory board and designate the chair of the advisory board from among the members, all of whom shall serve for three-year staggered terms. Membership of the advisory board shall include:

- Appellate Court Judicial Officer (1)
- Superior Court Judicial Officer (1)
- District or Municipal Court Judicial Officer (1)
- Superior Court Administrator (1)
- Juvenile Court Administrator (1)
- District or Municipal Court Administrator (1)
- Academic Researcher (2)
- Executive Branch or Legislative Researcher (1)

That a strategic oversight committee for the Washington State Center for Court Research shall be established to meet annually to set priorities for research projects. Additional meetings shall be scheduled at the request of the advisory board chair. The chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court shall appoint the members of the oversight committee and designate the chair of the committee from among the members. The chief justice shall designate the term for the oversight committee members. Membership of the strategic oversight committee shall include:

- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1)
- Current Superior Court Judges' Association President (1)
- Current District and Municipal Court Judges' Association President (1)
- State Court Administrator (1)
- Judicial Information System Committee Chair (1)
- Commission on Children in Foster Care Co-Chair (1)
- Gender and Justice Commission Co-Chair (1)
- Minority and Justice Commission Co-Chair (1)
- Interpreter Commission Chair (1)
- WSCCR Advisory Board Chair (1)

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 29th day of April, 2015.

	<u>Madsen, C.J.</u>
	
<u>Fairhurst, J.</u>	<u>Good, M. J.</u>
	<u>Yu, J.</u>