

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

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

ORDER
NO. 25700-B- **440**

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 policy based upon sound and informed research;

WHEREAS, independent, objective and informed research enables the judiciary to 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 objective and informed research to reach major policy decisions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize the value of independent judicial branch research conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts;

AND FURTHER, 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

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
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B. C. SHERITT
CLERK

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the Courts be established to provide objective and informed research for the judicial branch, to review and comment on court system related research conducted by the legislative and executive branches, and to communicate findings to the judiciary.

An advisory board for the Washington State Center for Court Research shall be established by the Supreme Court. The advisory board shall guide the Center's activities and make regular reports to the Supreme Court. 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)
- Trial Court Judicial Officer (3)
- County Clerk (1)
- Trial Court Administrator (2)
- Washington State Bar Association (2)
- State Court Administrator (1)
- Academic Researcher (1)
- Executive or Legislative Branch Researcher (1)

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 9th day of September 2004.

Johnson, J.
Madsen, J.
Sander, J.
Ireland, J.

Alexander, C. J.
Bridges, J.
Chambers, J.
Curran, J.
Fairhurst, J.