

The Supreme Court
State of Washington


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Justice Mary Fairhurst, Chair, JISC
Judge Laura Inveen, President, SCJA
Judge Gregory Tripp, President, DMCJA
Judge Ann Schindler, Presiding Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Judge Harold Clarke, Trial Court Operations
Judge Chris Wickham, Member Chair, BJA
Bonnie Bush, President, WAJCA
Frank Maiocco, President, AWSCA
Stephen Crossland, President, WSBA
Lynne Jacobs, Co-Chair, CMC
Betty Gould, President, WSACC
Barbara James, Executive Director, State CASA
Kay Newman, State Law Librarian
Jim Bamberger, Director, OCLA
Joanne Moore, Director, OPD
Kirsten Barron, Chair, Access to Justice Board

FROM: Barbara Madsen 

DATE: March 20, 2012

RE: 2013-2015 Biennial Budget Development and Submittal

As you know, judicial branch leaders met in fall 2011 to develop processes by which budget issues would be discussed, resolutions reached, and the results communicated to the Washington State Legislature. The existing process was modified to include review and comment by the Board for Judicial Administration for those requests that impact the budget for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

In addition, the process for presenting the budget to the Supreme Court Budget Committee has been modified to give interested parties an opportunity to attend all presentations. An additional presentation meeting may be scheduled as volume dictates.

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These changes to the budget process were recently approved by the Supreme Court Budget Committee and by the Board for Judicial Administration for implementation with the development of the 2013-2015 biennial budget request. Details of the new budget development process may be found on the courts' webpage.

The new process and timelines were established in response to the current economic situation, the need for a consistent and objective process, and the importance of ensuring that all requests forwarded to the Legislature are sound and well-vetted. The schedule allows for development, interactive discussion, and promotion of the budget request prior to the 2013 Legislative Session.

Recognizing that financial resources are severely limited in the current economic environment, I strongly urge you to carefully examine any and all requests for additional funding.

A number of measures, including the judicial branch policy objectives, will be used by the court in reviewing and prioritizing all requests presented. Accordingly, the policy objectives should be used as the framework supporting each budget request as it is prepared.

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Management Services Division will provide staff support for the development, submittal, and review of budget requests considered for inclusion in the Court's budget proposal to the Legislature. For requests that impact the AOC, the due date for preliminary requests is March 30, 2012. All other preliminary requests must be received by Ramsey Radwan no later than April 20, 2012. Final detailed decision packages are due to Ramsey on or before July 6, 2012.

Information regarding presentations before the Supreme Court Budget Committee will be sent under separate cover. You will find contact information, templates, and detailed information at this Internet address:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd

Thank you in advance for honoring the schedule and process. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 357-2037 or call Ramsey Radwan at (360) 357-2406.

c: Supreme Court Budget Committee
Executive and Budget Committees, Court of Appeals
Jeff Hall, State Court Administrator
Steve Goff, Supreme Court Commissioner
Ron Carpenter, Supreme Court Clerk
Ramsey Radwan, Director, Management Services Division
Reiko Callner, Executive Director, CJC