


The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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TO: Justice Mary Fairhurst, Chair, JISC
Judge Tari Eitzen, President, SCJA
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Marti Maxwell, President, AWSCA
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Joanne Moore, Director, Office of Public Defense
Reiko Callner, Executive Director, Commission on Judicial Conduct
Washington State Access to Justice Board
Court of Appeals Executive Committee

FROM: Chief Justice Barbara Madsen 

DATE: March 26, 2010

RE: 2011-2013 Biennial Budget Development and Submission Instructions

The Supreme Court has adopted a judicial branch budget development process and submittal schedule for the 2011-2013 biennial budget. This process and timeline were established in response to the current economic situation, the need for a consistent and objective process, and to ensure that all requests forwarded to the legislature are sound and well defined. Although the approved schedule is aggressive, meeting the submittal dates will provide ample time for interactive discussion and promotion of the budget request prior to the 2011 legislative session.

As we all know, the current economic environment is not conducive to a growth in financial resources at the state or local levels. I would therefore advise that you carefully examine any and all requests for additional resources and be prepared to defend and justify those items that are forwarded for the court to consider.

The judicial branch policy objectives will be used, among other measures, by the court to review and prioritize 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 submitted for inclusion in the court's budget proposal to the legislature. Preliminary budget requests are due on April 19, 2010. Information regarding presentations before the Supreme Court Budget Committee will be sent under separate cover. Contact and other information is included in the instructions, which can be found 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 Ramsey Radwan at (360) 357-2406.

cc: Supreme Court Budget Committee
Kay Newman
Danilo Anselmo
Steven Goff
Jeff Hall
Ramsey Radwan