



WASHINGTON
COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

2025 BJA Request Legislation

Brittany Gregory, Associate Director – Judicial and Legislative Relations

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Proposal 1

Title: Additional Superior Court Judge (Omnibus Bill)

Source: Skagit County Superior Court & Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield Counties Superior Court

Summary: This proposal is for an additional Superior Court Judicial position for Skagit County (1) & Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield Counties (1).

Pro(s): Supported by most recent Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE); both requests are supported (informally) by the respective county Commissions.

Proposal 2

Title: Technical Fixes (Omnibus Bill)

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) & District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA)

Summary:

- Part 1 – Amend the Legal Financial Obligation Grant Program (RCW 2.56.190)
- Part 2 – Correct error/inconsistency in RCW 9A.48.100(2)
- Part 3 – Amend civil infraction statutes (RCW 7.80.070[h], RCW 7.80.050[5], and RCW 7.80.120[3])

Pro(s): Updates inconsistencies in existing Washington state statutes and court rules.

Proposal 3

Title: Including Appellate Commissioners in PERS Judicial Benefit Multiplier

Source: Court of Appeals Commissioners

- Supported by COA Legislative Committee

Summary: Add appellate commissioners to the PERS Judicial Benefit Multiplier.

Pro(s):

- Benefit parity for judicial officers.
- Minimal fiscal impact
- All impacted commissioners have weighed in on proposal and agree with policy change.

Proposal 4

Title: Judicial Officer Personal Information Confidentiality

Source: BJA Court Security Committee (Co-Chairs: Judge O'Donnell & Suzanne Elsner)

Summary: The Address Confidentiality Program provides the only route for consistently protecting personal information on government-run websites such as County Assessor and Voter Records. The current RCWs require a threat to be received first before a Criminal Justice Affiliate can apply for the program. Since attacks on judicial officers can come without a direct threat being made first, proactive measures are essential to reducing vulnerabilities. This legislative request seeks to address this by allowing for proactive participation in the Address Confidentiality Program by judicial officers and providing a definition for "judicial officer" that encompasses judicial officers of all court levels.

Pro(s): Increases safety and security for judges at all court levels and statewide.

Proposal 5

Title: Caregiver Status as Mitigating Factor for Exceptional Sentence

Source: Gender and Justice Commission (GJC)

Summary: This proposal is requesting revision to the statute to recognize caregiver status as a mitigating factor for the court to consider in sentencing. This is believed to be a mitigating factor because the family structure can provide support in rehabilitation for offenders.

Pro(s): This is equity focused, as caregiver status primarily affects women and families without resources.

Proposal 6

Title: Court Interpreter Statutory Revisions (RCW 2.43)

Source: Interpreter and Language Access Commission (ILAC)

Summary: This proposal is requesting changes to Washington statute to be compliant with Federal Department of Justice policy interpretation of Title VI prohibiting a court from imposing interpreter costs on parties in all court proceedings and court-managed programs; update statutory verbiage in order to align with the operations conducted by AOCs Court Interpreter Program and industry best practices; and to provide better access to the courts and court services for individuals regardless of their ability to communicate in English.

Pro(s): AOC already assuming costs of reimbursing courts for interpreter services.



Questions?

Brittany Gregory

Brittany.Gregory@courts.wa.gov