The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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December 9, 2010

Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor
Office of the Governor
416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW, Suite 200
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: 2011 Judicial Branch Budget Reduction

Dear Governor Gregoire:

In September 2010, the agencies of the judicial branch identified budget reductions consistent with the methodology outlined by Executive Order 10-4 and information provided by the Office of Financial Management. Within the context of nonconstitutional activities we identified and implemented over $3 million in budget reductions.

A few days after the November 18, 2010 economic and revenue forecast was issued, you requested that the judicial branch identify additional reductions beyond the 6.287 percent reduction that we identified in September. During our conversation, I stated that while the judicial branch intends to be a cooperative participant and that we would certainly identify additional savings, the budget reduction amounts identified are not sustainable and should not be automatically considered when developing the 2011-2013 biennial operating budget.

At my request, judicial branch agencies have now identified an additional $1.2 million in nonconstitutional activity savings to help offset the current state general fund deficit. The total amount identified is now $4.2 million that represents, on average, 9 percent of our budget as adjusted for the costs of constitutionally mandated activities.

We believe that the amount identified by each agency represents the maximum amount that can be reduced at this time without compromising our ability to carry out our constitutional mandate.

The table below identifies the budget reduction amount by judicial branch agency.

Judicial Branch Cash Deficit Reduction

	Original Amount	Additional Amount	Total	Percent Reduction
Supreme Court	$51,042	$53,000	$104,042	12.82%
Court of Appeals	$233,000	$219,000	$452,000	12.20%
Law Library	$56,859	$10,000	$66,859	7.39%
Admin. Office of the Courts	$2,005,324	$797,000	$2,802,324	8.79%
Office of Public Defense	$251,310	$51,280	$302,590	7.57%
Office of Civil Legal Aid	$408,278	$129,000	$537,278	8.27%
TOTAL	**$3,005,813**	**$1,206,280**	**$4,265,093**	**8.92%**

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice

c: Representative Jeannie Darneille
Representative Frank Chopp
Senator Lisa Brown
Marty Brown, Director OFM