

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF TEMPORARILY REDUCING)
THE NUMBER OF CONTINUING JUDICIAL)
EDUCATION CREDITS FOR JUDICIAL)
OFFICERS WHOSE REPORTING PERIOD ENDS)
DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND TEMPORARILY)
SUSPENDING THE NUMBER OF CONTINUING)
JUDICIAL EDUCATION CREDITS A JUDICIAL)
OFFICER CAN RECEIVE VIA SELF-PACED)
PROGRAMS FOR THE SAME REPORTING)
CLASS.)
_____)

ORDER

No. 25700-B-624

WHEREAS, this Court has issued a series of emergency administrative offers due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this Court values education and training of this State's judicial officers; and

WHEREAS, the annual DMCJA and SCJA spring education programs were cancelled due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, judicial officers, whose three-year continuing judicial education reporting period ends December 31, 2020, will not have the opportunity to earn needed credits in order to be in compliance with GR 26;

WHEREAS, due to the lack of sufficient live online education judicial officers will need to access self-paced education opportunities which has a restriction of 15 credits within a three-year reporting period;

WHEREAS, the Board for Judicial Administration reviewed and approved temporary changes to GR 26 and Standards on May 8, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Courts authority to take emergency action with respect to rules pursuant to GR 9(j)(1).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- (a) Effective immediately the Court hereby suspends the GR 26(a) requirement of 45 credits for judicial officers whose three-year reporting period ends December 31, 2020. Judicial officers whose three-year reporting period ends December 31, 2020, are required to complete 35 hours by December 31, 2020.
- (b) Effective immediately, the Court hereby suspends, until December 31, 2020, the provision in GR 26_Standards—Washington State Judicial Education Mandatory Judicial Education Standards Section II(1.) (b) that limits self-study credits to 15 hours within a three-year period.
- (c) This order is not a permanent change to GR 26 and GR 26 Standards, and does not affect the Court's continual review of proposed amendments to court rules, including GR 26, under the nonemergency provisions of GR 9;
- (d) These exemptions and exceptions only apply to judicial officers whose three-year reporting period ends December 31, 2020.
- (e) This order will be published on the Washington Courts website.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 5th day of June, 2020.

For the Court


CHIEF JUSTICE DEBRA L. STEPHENS