

BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION



**WASHINGTON
COURTS**

MEETING PACKET

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

VIDEOCONFERENCE

Board for Judicial Administration Membership

VOTING MEMBERS:

Chief Justice Debra Stephens, Chair
Washington State Supreme Court

Judge Andrea Beall, Member Chair
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Puyallup Municipal Court

Judge Tam T. Bui
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Snohomish County District Court

Judge Alicia Burton
Superior Court Judges' Association
Pierce County Superior Court

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis, President
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Seattle Municipal Court

Judge Paul Crisalli
Superior Court Judges' Association
King County Maleng Regional Justice Center

Judge George Fearing
Court of Appeals, Division III

Judge Rebecca Glasgow
Court of Appeals, Division II

Judge John Hart
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Whitman County District Court

Judge Cindy Larsen, President
Superior Court Judges' Association
Snohomish County Superior Court

Judge David Mann
Court of Appeals, Division I

Justice Sal Mungia
Washington State Supreme Court

Judge Donald Richter
Superior Court Judges' Association
Pacific County Superior Court

Judge Rebecca Robertson
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
King County District Court

Judge Diana N. Ruff
Superior Court Judges' Association
Benton/Franklin Superior Court

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Sunitha Anjilvel, Acting President
Washington State Bar Association

Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, President-Elect
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Snohomish County District Court

Judge Michael Scott, President-Elect
Superior Court Judges' Association
King County Superior Court

Terra Nevitt, Executive Director
Washington State Bar Association

Dawn Marie Rubio
State Court Administrator

The **Mission** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to provide leadership and develop policy to enhance the judiciary's ability to serve as an equal, independent, and responsible branch of government.

The **Vision** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to be the voice of the Washington State courts.

	Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting Friday, September 12, 2025 (9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	
AGENDA		
1. Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Chief Justice Debra Stephens Judge Andrea Beall	9:00am
2. BJA Orientation Orientation and Welcome to New members	Chief Justice Debra Stephens Judge Andrea Beall	9:10am Tab 1
3. BJA Task Forces Alternatives to Incarceration Remote Proceedings Final Report Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Taskforce <i>Motion: Approve JWAH TF Charter</i>	Judge Mary Logan/Judge Katie Loring/Laurie Louise Sale Judge Rogers/Judge Gerl/Laurie Louise Sale Judge Janet Helson/Trish Kinlow/Laurie Louise Sale	9:35am Tab 2
4. Committees Budget and Funding Committee <i>Motion: Approve Budget Requests</i> Court Education Committee <i>Motion: Approve CEC Charter Revisions</i> Legislative Committee <i>Motion: Approve Legislative Proposals</i> Policy and Action Committee Court Security Committee Public Engagement and Education Committee Report <i>Motion: Approve New PEEC Members</i>	Judge Diana Ruff/ Chris Stanley Judge Tam Bui/Scott Hillstrom Judge Rebecca Glasgow Judge Michael Scott Judge O'Donnell/Kyle Landry Judge Katie Loring/Nicole Ack	10:00am Tab 3
Break		11:00am
5. Language Access Presentation	Judge Diaz/Language Access Team	11:10am Tab 4

6. BJA Policy Changes	Chief Justice Debra Stephens	11:45am Tab 5
7. Minutes approval <i>Motion: Approve the May 16, 2025 meeting minutes</i>	Chief Justice Debra Stephens	11:50am Tab 6
8. Information Sharing	Judge Andrea Beall	11:50am
9. Adjourn		12:00pm

Persons who require accommodations should notify Melissa Hernandez at Melissa.Hernandez@wa.courts.gov to request or discuss accommodations. While notice five days prior to the event is preferred, every effort will be made to provide accommodations, when requested.

Next meetings:

- **October 17, 2025 (Zoom)**
- **November 14, 2025 (in-person Meeting—Joint CMC)**
- **February 20, 2026 (Zoom)**
- **March 20, 2026 (Zoom)**
- **May 15, 2026 (Zoom)**
- **June 12, 2026 (in-person Judicial Leadership Summit)**

Board for Judicial Administration Member Orientation

Presenters: Co-chairs, Chief Justice Debra Stephens and Judge Andrea Beall

What is the BJA?

- Unified voice of the Washington State Courts
- Provides leadership and develops statewide judicial policy
- Represents more than 400 judges across four court levels: Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Courts, District & Municipal Courts

BJA Rules and Bylaws

- [BJAR](#) establishes BJA's role and governance structure
- [Bylaws](#) govern operations and decision-making
- [Membership](#) spans all court levels + partner associations
- Committees guided by approved charters

Member Responsibilities

As a BJA member, you are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in BJA meetings
- Review all meeting materials in advance
- Serve on at least one standing committee
- Bring proposals, concerns, and questions forward from your association
- Identify a proxy if unable to attend for voting and presentation purposes

Reporting Responsibilities

- Provide regular updates back to your association or group after each BJA meeting
- Share key decisions, initiatives, and updates from your respective associations
- Use the BJA Meeting Snapshot as a communication tool for reporting back to your associations on BJA activity
- Submit your annual association report as an oral update during a scheduled BJA meeting (the BJA coordinator can help with scheduling your presentation)

BJA Standing Committees and Task Forces/Work Groups

Standing Committees

Policy & Action Committee (PAC)

Chair: Judge Michael Scott

Staff Support: Laurie Louise Sale (primary)

Legislative Committee

Chair: Judge Rebecca Glasgow

Staff Support: Haily Perkins

Court Education Committee (CEC)

Chair: Judge Tam Bui

Staff Support: Scott Hillstrom

Budget & Funding Committee (BFC)

Chair: Judge Diana Ruff

Staff Support: Chris Stanley

Task Forces/Work Groups

Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Task Force

Co-Chairs: Judge Janet Helson and Trish Kinlow

Staff Support: Laurie Louise Sale

Remote Proceedings Work Group (RPWG) (*sunset as of June 30, 2025*)

Co-Chairs: Judge Angelle Gerl and Judge Jim Rogers

Staff Support: Laurie Louise Sale

Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force (ATI)

Co-Chairs: Judge Katie Loring and Judge Mary Logan

Staff Support: Laurie Louise Sale

Meeting Expectations

- The meeting schedule is approved annually by the membership
- Most meetings are virtual via zoom except for the November BJA meeting and the June Judicial Leadership Summit
- Packets and agendas are distributed via email 1-week in advance
- Notify the BJA coordinator if you are assigning a proxy for the meeting
- 2025-2026 Meeting dates: Sept 12, Oct 17, Nov 14, Feb 20, Mar 20, May 15, Jun 12 (Judicial Leadership Summit)

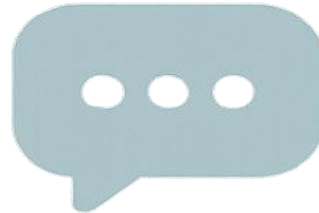
Zoom Meeting Etiquette



Mute when
not speaking



Use "Raise
Hand" or
chat for
questions



Votes are
cast in chat
(type 'Yes /
No/Abstain')



Be mindful
of time
so all voices
can be heard



Come
prepared—
review
meeting packet

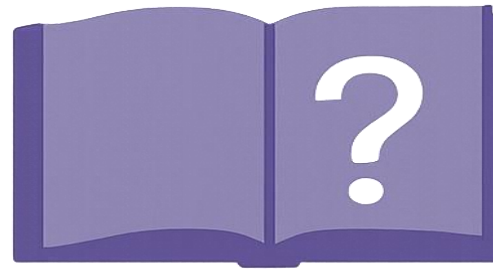
For Additional Onboarding Support

1. BJA Member Guide (2025–26 Edition) included in your Materials
2. Member Onboarding Document included in your materials

BJA Staff Support: Melissa Hernandez – BJA Coordinator
Melissa.Hernandez@courts.wa.gov

Website: [Washington State Courts - Board for Judicial Administration](https://www.courts.wa.gov/boards/BJA/)

Questions & Discussion



BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

New Member Onboarding Document

Prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts

Overview

The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) is charged with providing effective leadership to the state courts and developing policy to enhance the administration of the court system in Washington State. Judges serving on the Board pursue the best interests of the judiciary at large in representing the more than 400 elected and appointed judges presiding at four levels: the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, Superior Courts, and District and Municipal Courts.

This document outlines your role and responsibilities as a BJA member and provides information to support your onboarding.

BJA Leadership

- Chief Justice Debra Stephens, Co-Chair (Supreme Court)
- Judge Andrea Beall, Member Co-Chair (DMCJA)
 - The BJA Member chair rotates every two years between DMCJA and SCJA.

Your Responsibilities as a BJA Member

As a BJA member, you are expected to:

- Attend all regularly scheduled BJA meetings and actively participate in discussions and decision-making.
- Read ALL materials included in the BJA packet prior to each meeting
- Represent your judicial association by communicating BJA decisions, initiatives, and updates to your association.
- Bring questions, proposals, and concerns from your association to the BJA for discussion and potential action.
- Serve on a standing BJA committee and attend its regularly scheduled meetings.
- Coordinate with your association's leadership to identify a proxy if you are unable to attend a BJA meeting.

- For SCJA and DMCJA members, the non-voting association member (the President-Elect) serves as the designated proxy to vote on your behalf or provide necessary updates when you are unable to attend a meeting.

Reporting to Your Judicial Association

Judicial associations depend on regular updates from their BJA representatives to remain informed on statewide priorities. As a BJA member, you are expected to:

- Provide brief oral or written updates to your association following each BJA meeting (You may use the BJA Meeting Snapshot, distributed after each meeting, as a helpful tool for these updates)
- Submit an annual association report to BJA, typically presented as an oral summary of activity during a scheduled board meeting.
- The BJA Coordinator will notify you several weeks prior to your scheduled report date with reminders and preparation guidance.

Your BJA Committee Assignment

Committee	Chair	AOC Staff Contact
Policy & Action (PAC)	Judge Michael Scott	Melissa Hernandez (melissa.hernandez@courts.wa.gov)
Legislative	Judge Rebecca Glasgow	Haily Perkins (haily.perkins@courts.wa.gov)
Court Education (CEC)	Judge Tam Bui	Scott Hillstrom (scott.hillstrom@courts.wa.gov)
Budget and Funding Committee (BFC)	Judge Diana Ruff	Chris Stanley (chris.stanley@courts.wa.gov)

You are required to attend all scheduled meetings of your assigned committee and to participate in its work as a full member. If the meeting times conflict with your schedule, coordinate with the committee staff member for accommodation. If no schedule changes can be made, you may need to switch committee assignment with another member on your respective association.

BJA Meeting Schedule

You will receive meeting materials, including agendas, packets, and logistical information in advance of each meeting—typically one week prior. Please see below for the upcoming meeting dates—You should have also received calendar invitations from the BJA coordinator:

Date	Time	Location
September 12, 2025	9:00am-12:00pm	Zoom
October 17, 2025	9:00am-12:00pm	Zoom
November 14, 2025	9:00am-12:00pm	In-Person
February 20, 2026	9:00am-12:00pm	Zoom
March 20, 2026	9:00am-12:00pm	Zoom
May 15, 2026	9:00am-12:00pm	Zoom

June 12, 2026

8:00am-1:00pm

In-Person

Please notify the BJA Coordinator in advance if you are unable to attend and will be designating a proxy.

Need Help?

For questions about your committee assignment, meeting logistics, or reporting requirements, contact:

Melissa Hernandez

BJA Coordinator

Administrative Office of the Courts

melissa.hernandez@courts.wa.gov



2025–2026 BJA MEMBER GUIDE

A Complete Member Guide to the Board for Judicial Administration

TAB 2



WASHINGTON COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Board for Judicial Administration

BJA Remote Proceedings Work Group

Final Report

September 2026

Report Prepared by:

Melissa Hernandez,

Court Association Coordinator, Board for Judicial Administration

Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts

Introduction

The BJA Remote Proceedings Work Group (RPWG) was established to explore how Washington courts could continue practices that developed from remote and hybrid proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work group aimed to assess current practices, identify best practices, and propose court rule modifications to replace expiring Supreme Court Emergency Orders. In addition, the work group was to suggest best practices for trials judges. Our collective efforts were centered on improving access to justice, ensuring procedural fairness, and addressing operational efficiency.

The work groups included representatives from trial courts, private lawyers, public lawyers, legal advocacy organizations, and judicial associations.

These various practice groups were guided by their experiences during the pandemic, across different legal practices and court practices and resources from the National Center for State Courts, the Court Recovery Task Force. Our collaborative process emphasized inclusivity and transparency, engaging stakeholders from all corners of the legal system.

Additionally, the RPWG presented recommendations at the 2023 Superior Court Judges' Association Spring conference and will present at the 2025 Fall Judicial Conference. The upcoming session, titled "Beyond the Screen: Best Practices for Remote Proceedings," will provide practical guidance to judicial officers across all court levels. It will cover rule updates, statewide best practices, and real-time solutions for common challenges encountered in virtual hearings.

This final report outlines the work group's key findings, best practice recommendations, court rule updates, and financial considerations. It concludes with a summary of lessons learned and recommendations for future work.

Best Practices Guidelines for Remote Proceedings

To understand the evolving needs of Washington courts in the remote and hybrid environment, the RPWG conducted two comprehensive surveys. The first survey was disseminated in December 2022 with 123 courts responding. It examined the frequency and type of remote proceedings conducted by court level and identified perceived benefits and barriers to continued remote practice. Findings from this survey informed the development of foundational best practices and indicated strong support for continued hybrid proceedings.

In 2024, the RPWG released a follow-up survey focused on two key questions: (1) Do courts need funding and resources to support remote proceedings? and (2) How has the number and type of hybrid proceedings evolved since 2023? Results showed that 81% of courts reported needing one or more types of upgrades or resources to sustain or enhance hybrid capabilities. Nearly half of responding courts indicated that they continue to conduct hybrid proceedings, and one-third reported an increase in such proceedings over the previous year.

These surveys underscored the importance of sustainable investment in remote infrastructure and led to the development of a comprehensive Best Practices Bench Card. A dedicated subgroup within RPWG met regularly to review national models, incorporate lessons from the Remote Jury Trials Work Group and Resuming Jury Trials Work Group, and develop specific guidance tailored to Washington State. The resulting Bench Card identifies types of proceedings most suitable for remote or hybrid formats and outlines key considerations for equitable access, procedural fairness, and technical reliability. The Bench Card is available on Inside Courts and is intended to serve as a dynamic resource for judicial officers.

Court Rules Project

Following the March 2020 closure of many institutions and businesses, Washington courts rapidly adopted remote technology to ensure access to justice while protecting public health. No other state held more court hearings or trials in the first year of the pandemic. This swift and comprehensive adaptation was made possible through statewide collaboration, Supreme Court leadership, and local court innovation.

Emergency orders issued by the Washington State Supreme Court—beginning with Chief Justice Stephens' March 18, 2020, Order (No. 25700-B-606)—mandated the use of video and telephonic technology and established operational frameworks for remote proceedings. These orders were refined through subsequent directives, including the April 13 and October 13, 2020, orders, which introduced accommodations such as electronic signatures and hybrid formats.

In 2023 and 2024, the RPWG coordinated a multi-stakeholder effort to review and propose updates to the Washington Court Rules. Bench-bar subcommittees chaired by Judge Gerl (for DMCJA) and Judge Rogers (for SCJA) developed and submitted a comprehensive package of proposed rule changes. These proposals were approved by the Washington Supreme Court.

Rules for Superior Courts Adopted:

- Civil Rules: [CR 1](#), [CR 26](#), [CR 30](#), [CR 39](#), [CR 43](#), [CR 45](#)
- Criminal Rules: CrR 3.4
- Juvenile Court Rules: JuCR 11.23

Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Adopted:

- Administrative Rules: ARLJ 3, 11, 11.2
- Civil Rules: CRLJ 7, 26, 38, 43, 45, 77.04
- Criminal Rules: CrRLJ [2.2](#), [2.5](#), [3.2](#), [3.2.1](#), [3.3](#), [3.4](#), 4.1, 4.6, 4.8, [6.12](#), [7.3](#), [7.6](#)
- Infractions Rules: IRLJ [3.3](#), [3.4](#), [3.5](#), [6.7](#)

General Rules:

- GR 41 (new rule adopted)
- [GR 30](#) (amendments proposed)
- [GR 11.3](#) (not adopted)

A detailed discussion of these rule changes and their practical implications can be found in the March 2024 issue of the Washington State Bar News article titled "*Rules of the Remote*".

Summary of Budget Request: Sustain Courtroom Technology

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), on behalf of the BJA and the Remote Proceedings Work Group, submitted a \$2.346 million biennial funding request for the 2025–27 biennium. The request sought to establish a grant program to fund technology upgrades necessary for efficient and equitable hybrid court proceedings across Washington State.

This funding would have supported:

- Court-user tools (laptops, kiosks, access booths)
- Audio/visual upgrades
- Digital evidence systems
- Workflow and document management technology
- Interpreter and video conferencing integrations
- Training for court staff and judicial officers
- Licensing and subscription services

The package also included 1.0 FTE (Court Program Analyst) to manage the grant program.

Rationale and Need

Washington courts have seen a steady increase in hybrid proceedings, with nearly half of courts maintaining 2023 levels and one-third reporting an increase. Yet, 81% of courts surveyed reported needing one or more resources to sustain or improve their hybrid capabilities. Without adequate funding, courts—especially small or rural ones—struggle to support remote participation, despite statutory requirements (e.g., [RCW 7.105.205](#), [RCW 59.18.412](#)) and public demand for such services.

Courts that lack modern technology face:

- Longer hearings due to outdated A/V systems
- Barriers for litigants without reliable transportation, childcare, or paid leave
- Difficulty retaining interpreters and attorneys who prefer remote work
- Increased failures to appear, rescheduling, and inefficiencies

Equity and Access Impact

Remote participation significantly enhances access to justice for:

- Rural and low-income residents
- People with disabilities
- Parents and caregivers
- Victims of abuse or trauma
- Marginalized communities often underrepresented in court processes

It also enables attorneys and interpreters to serve multiple jurisdictions more efficiently, reducing costs for clients and expanding access to legal representation in underserved areas.

Future Budget Considerations

Although the budget request was not approved, the Remote Proceedings Work Group strongly recommends that BJA prioritize and reconsider funding this initiative in future cycles. The absence of funding threatens the progress made toward a more accessible, efficient, and equitable court system. Supporting this investment aligns with BJA's policy objectives and fulfills legislative mandates for remote proceedings—ensuring Washington courts can continue to meet the evolving needs of the public.

Recommendations

Throughout its work, the RPWG identified several key lessons that have shaped our understanding of the role and future of remote proceedings in Washington State.

Remote proceedings have become routine. Remote proceedings play a critical role in expanding access to justice. Appearance is much easier for short hearings for those who work or take care of others. They are important for individuals with disabilities, those who live in remote areas. Virtual hearings can mitigate longstanding barriers by reducing the need for travel, offering scheduling flexibility, and minimizing costs for litigants and legal practitioners. Importantly, immigrants who are fearful of visiting courthouses can appear remotely.

The vast majority of people have access to a phone with video capability.

Clear and consistent protocols and clear instructions for getting to a remote court hearing are very important. Uniform guidelines, such as those found in the Bench Card, support judicial officers in making informed decisions and ensure that all parties—regardless of geographic location—have a similar procedural experience. Furthermore, the group learned that investments in hardware alone are insufficient. Technology must be paired with comprehensive training and ongoing technical support to be truly effective.

Looking ahead, the RPWG recommends that advocacy continue for funding technology improvements, especially for rural counties in need of resources. Courts should have equitable access to stable funding sources to implement and sustain technological upgrades. The RPWG

urges BJA to prioritize renewed funding efforts, particularly those that revisit the 2025–27 “Sustain Courtroom Technology” proposal, which addresses documented and widespread court needs.

Appendix

RPWG Charter

- [Membership List and Page](#)
- Budget Proposal Document: [Washington State Courts - Financial Services Financial Services - 2025-27 Judicial Branch Biennial Budget Submittal](#)
- [Emergency COVID Orders](#)
- [Bar News Article: "Rules of the Remote," March 2024](#)
- [Remote Proceedings Survey PowerPoint](#)
- Remote Proceedings Bench Card (Attached)

Prepared for submission to the BJA – September 12, 2025

August 28, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Judicial Administration
FROM: Judge Janet Helson and Trish Kinlow, Co-Chairs of the Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Taskforce (JWAH)
RE: Motion Request for Approval of Taskforce Charter

Good morning,

On behalf of the Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Taskforce (the Taskforce), we respectfully submit this formal request for approval of the draft charter and its authority. This approval will affirm the Taskforce's charge to lead the statewide development, piloting, and implementation of anti-bias and anti-harassment training across the judicial branch. The charter outlines a comprehensive framework for promoting a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace culture—one rooted in evidence-based practices, equity principles, and lived experience.

Endorsing the charter will enable the Taskforce to:

- Coordinate with key judicial and community partners
- Launch a pilot training and evaluation model
- Develop a long-term strategy for system-wide implementation
- Provide ongoing oversight and recommendations to the BJA

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your support in advancing this critical initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Co-Chairs, Superior Court Judge Janet Helson and Administrator LaTricia "Trish" Kinlow, Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Taskforce



BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION (BJA)

Strategic Initiative Charter

JUDICIAL WORKPLACE ANTI-HARRASSMENT TASKFORCE

I. Title

Judicial Workplace Anti-Harassment Taskforce

II. Authority

Established under the authority of the Board for Judicial Administration (BJAR) Rule 1.

III. Goal

To promote a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace culture within the Washington State judicial branch by implementing a long-term, system-wide anti-bias and antiharassment training program rooted in evidence-based practices and equity principles.

IV. Charge and Deliverables

The Judicial Workplace and Anti-Harassment Task Force is charged with overseeing the statewide development, piloting, and implementation of workplace anti-bias and antiharassment training throughout the judicial branch. The Task Force shall:

1. Review and assess existing training resources, including those developed by the Gender & Justice Commission and other expert entities.
2. Identify and evaluate additional effective training approaches that foster inclusive work environments, behavioral change, and leadership accountability.
3. Formulate and launch a pilot training and evaluation model that includes both general and role-specific instruction, live facilitation, and feedback mechanisms.
4. Develop and launch a long-term training strategy for the judicial branch that incorporates climate assessments, results-oriented metrics, and lived experience insights.
5. Support the creation of safe learning environments through diverse instructional methods and culturally responsive facilitation.
6. Identify and address barriers to equitable access to training across judicial roles and court levels.
7. Recommend policy, funding, and operational strategies to integrate anti-bias and anti-harassment principles into workplace norms and leadership development.
8. Provide continuous oversight and program improvement, with ongoing reports to the BJA on progress, challenges, and emerging needs.

This charter shall expire on June 30, 2027, unless renewed or revised by a majority vote of the BJA.

V. Membership

Final membership shall be determined by the Task Force Co-Chairs. Recommended membership includes:

- Co-Chairs:
 - One Judicial Officer
 - One Court Administrator
- Recommended Members:
 - One representative from the Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)
 - Two representatives from the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA)—one district and one municipal court judge
 - One appellate court judge
 - One representative from the Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators (AWSCA)
 - Two representatives from the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) one municipal, one district court
 - One representative from the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA)
 - One representative from the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC)
 - State Court Administrator or designee from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 - One representative from the Minority and Justice Commission
 - One representative from the Interpreter and Language Access Commission
 - One representative from the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)
 - One representative from the Office of Public Defense (OPD)
 - One representative from the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (Civil Division)
 - One representative from the Attorney General's Office (Labor and Personnel Division)
 - One representative from the Commission on Judicial Conduct

Entities will be encouraged to nominate individuals who have either experienced workplace harassment or have expertise in training and responding to such incidents, to ensure the Taskforce includes Members with relevant lived experience.

VI. Entities to Consult or Coordinate With

- State, county, and city risk management offices
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington State Association of Counties

- Courthouse Facilitators
- Disability Justice Task Force
- Tribal State Court Consortium
- Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR)
- Anti-bias and harassment training facilitators or contracted consultants
- AOC Inclusion Team (AOCIT)

VII. Staff Support

Support for the Task Force shall be provided by:

- BJA Coordinator
- BJA Senior Court Program Analyst
- Additional staff or contractors as needed, subject to funding and scope of work

VIII. Budget and Resources

Funding for travel and meeting expenses shall be provided through BJA-designated funds within the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Support for facilitation and expert training services may be coordinated in partnership with statewide, county, and city risk management offices or other relevant agencies.

Adopted:

2026 Supplemental Budget Briefing

Christopher Stanley, CGFM – Chief Financial and Management Officer, AOC
August 13, 2025

Budget Outlook & Forecast



	<i>In millions</i>
Projected Ending Balance, June 30, 2027:	\$33.4
Add Rescue Plan Account:	\$0
Add Rainy Day Fund:	\$2,023.8
Official Resources Available Total:	\$2,057.1

Where does it go?

- Backfilling Federal Funding Losses
- Education Budget (McCleary Obligation)
- Caseload Changes

Updated Revenue Forecast Coming September 23

Recommendation Summary

2026 Supplemental Budget

Decision Package Requests: \$14.05 million



Support Trial Courts

1. Continue Water Rights Adjudications (Whatcom & Stevens County)
2. Add 5th Judge to Skagit Superior & 9th Judge to Yakima Superior
3. Restore Thurston County Impact Reimbursement
4. Continue Judicial Onboarding

\$4.4 million

Keep Programs that Help People

1. Restore Becca Funding
2. Continue Legal Self-Help Centers
3. Continue Title 11 Guardianship Proceedings
4. Continue Case Management System Deployment

\$9.66 million



Support Trial Courts

Fund Nooksack Water Rights Adjudication



Summary:

Original Request: \$2,133,000
Recommendation: \$2,133,000

Pursuant to RCW 90.03.243, the Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to cover the extraordinary costs of Whatcom County Superior Court activities related to adjudications filed by the Department of Ecology to resolve water rights in the Nooksack Basin Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) I. (General Fund-State)

Recommendation: Move Forward As Proposed

Fund Upper Columbia Water Rights Adjudication



Summary:

Original Request: \$633,000
Recommendation: \$633,000

Pursuant to RCW 90.03.243, the Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to cover the extraordinary costs of Stevens County Superior Court activities related to the upcoming Upper Columbia Water Adjudication. The Department of Ecology plans to proceed with a general water adjudication in the Upper Columbia Region, to be filed in Stevens County Superior Court in 2027.

Recommendation: Move Forward As Proposed

Add 5th Judge to Skagit Superior Court



Summary:

Original Request: \$424,000
Recommendation: \$212,000

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to add a 5th judge to Skagit County Superior Court and continue to manage existing superior court caseloads. Skagit County has passed a resolution authorizing funding for its share of the costs; this request is for the state share.

Recommendation: Move Forward As Amended

Add 9th Judge to Yakima Superior Court



Summary:

Original Request: \$424,000
Recommendation: \$212,000

Funding is requested to add a 9th judge to Yakima County Superior Court and continue to manage existing superior court caseloads. Yakima County has passed a resolution authorizing funding for its share of the costs; this request is for the state share. This would be the first judicial officer position created in Yakima County in 25 years.

Recommendation: Move Forward As Amended

Restore Thurston County Impact Reimbursement



Summary:

Original Request: \$1,554,000
Recommendation: \$1,094,000

Funding is requested for Thurston County Superior Court to maintain state legal impact case workloads. These are cases that have statewide impact and are filed in Thurston County because most state agencies are physically located and working in Olympia. The Office of Attorney General files most of them and cites statutes that allow Thurston County as a venue even if the issue did not happen in Thurston County.

Recommendation: Move Forward As Amended

Continue Judicial Onboarding



Summary:

Original Request: \$110,000
Recommendation: \$110,000

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to continue its onboarding program for judicial officers in courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJs) by renewing its agreement with an experienced, retired judge as a 'jurist-in-residence' to mentor newly appointed and elected judges. Nearly 40 percent of CLJ judges have been on the bench for less than five years and over 120 serve in single-judge courts where they lack access to colleagues for day-to-day expertise. This proposal continues the program established in the 2024 supplemental budget, which has successfully provided mentorship to over 50 judicial officers.

Recommendation: Move Forward as Proposed

Fully Fund Court Interpreter State Obligation



Summary:

Original Request: \$800,000
Recommendation: \$0

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to provide greater interpreter access to the court system and better support language access to court customers in the 125 contracted courts in the Language Access and Interpreter Reimbursement Program (LAIRP). Increasing the use of highly skilled and trained credentialed court interpreters and translating materials (forms, documents, signs, and resources) increases access to justice for court users who are not proficient in English or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Recommendation: Do not move forward

Fund Early Engagement Title 13 GALs



Summary:

Original Request: \$3,425,000
Recommendation: \$0

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding for a statewide early engagement dependency guardian ad litem (GAL) for every new child entering the dependency system. Early engagement dependency GALs will provide increased information for judicial best interest determinations in the first 90 days of a case, expanded relative search, and engagement by volunteer child advocates.

Recommendation: Do not move forward



Continue Critical Programs

Restore Juvenile Court Early Intervention Funding



Summary:

Original Request: \$10,000,000
Recommendation: \$6,250,000

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to comply with existing juvenile court early intervention program obligations. These funds would be passed through directly to the juvenile courts and include services for helping children attend school regularly, assisting ARY (at-risk youth), and CHINS (children in need of services) implemented at court level.

Recommendation: Move Forward as Amended

Continue Legal Self-Help Centers



Summary:

Original Request: \$520,000
Recommendation: \$520,000

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to continue self-help centers for court users in Spokane and Grays Harbor Counties. Legal self-help centers provide critical services for litigants without legal representation, mainly in the areas of family law, protection orders, and minor guardianships. The legislature, acknowledging the complexity of these case types and the gaps in resources for unrepresented litigants of varying income levels, previously funded these self-help center program efforts. These programs have been incredibly successful and have wide support within the judicial community. National research further confirms their essential role in increasing access to justice for unrepresented litigants.

Recommendation: Move Forward As Proposed

Fully Fund Title 11 UGA Costs



Summary:

Original Request: \$1,600,000
Recommendation: \$1,250,000

Funding is requested to sustain increasing guardian and conservatorship services consistent with Title 11, Uniform Guardianship Act superior court obligations. These funds are passed through the Administrative Office of the Courts, directly to superior courts.

Recommendation: Move Forward at \$1.25M

Continue CLJ Case Management System Deployment



Summary:

Original Request: \$13,104,000
Recommendation: \$1,636,000

The AOC requests funding to replace the old and outdated District/Municipal Court Information System (DISCIS) – built in 1988. This project is the top priority of the Judicial Information Systems Committee (JISC).

Recommendation: Move Forward as Amended

Sustain the Commission on Children in Foster Care



Summary:

Original Request: \$649,000
Recommendation: \$0

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) requests funding to support the important work of the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care (CCFC). The current operating budget for the CCFC is \$5,000 with no dedicated staff. The CCFC has made a measurable impact on its mission to improve permanency and meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social needs of court-involved children and youth. Investing in dedicated staffing and a sustainable budget for the Commission will positively impact thousands of Washington residents, particularly the over 9,000 children and youth with open-dependency cases and their families.

Recommendation: Do not move forward

Sustain the Disability Justice Task Force



Summary:

Original Request: \$200,000
Recommendation: \$0

The Administrative Office of the Courts, on behalf of the Disability Justice Task Force (DJTF), requests funding to support the implementation of system-level recommendations developed through the DJTF study.

Recommendation: Do not move forward

Update Hope Card Program



Summary:

Original Request: \$408,000
Recommendation: \$0

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to support the Hope Card Program and additional program changes required by House Bill 1460. The funds requested will ensure long-term viability of the program and program implementation consistency across all Washington courts.

Recommendation: Do not move forward

Questions?

Christopher.Stanley@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2406

Administrative Office of the Courts
2026 Supplemental Budget Version Comparison
August 25, 2025

		Submitted				Budget & Funding Committee Recommendation				Difference			
		\$s in \$0,000s				\$s in \$0,000s				\$s in \$0,000s			
		FTEs	GF-S FY 26	GF-S FY 27	GF-S Total	FTEs	GF-S FY 26	GF-S FY 27	GF-S Total	FTEs	GF-S FY 26	GF-S FY 27	GF-S Total
2026 Supplemental Budget	Submitted By				-				-				-
<i>Support Trial Courts</i>													
A1 Continue Nooksack Water Rights Adjudication	SCJA	-	110	720	830	-	1,479	654	2,133	-	1,369	(66)	1,303
A2 Prepare Upper Columbia Water Rights Adjud.	SCJA		-	633	633		-	633	633		-	-	-
A3 Add 5th Skagit Superior Court Judge	Skagit	0.50	212	212	424	0.50	-	212	212	0.50	(212)	-	(212)
A4 Add 9th Yakima Superior Court Judge	Yakima	0.50	212	212	424	0.50	-	212	212	0.50	(212)	-	(212)
A5 Restore Thurston County Impact Reimb.	SCJA	-	1,324	230	1,554	-	1,094	-	1,094	-	(230)	(230)	(460)
A6 Continue Judicial On-boarding	DMCJA	-	-	110	110	-	-	110	110	-	-	-	-
A7 Stabilize Interpreter Reimbursements	AOC/SCJA	-	400	400	800	-	-	-	-	-	(400)	(400)	(800)
A8 Fund Early Engagement Title 13 GALs	WACAP/SCJA	-	3,425	3,425	6,850	-	-	-	-	-	(3,425)	(3,425)	(6,850)
<i>Continue Critical Programs</i>													
B1 Restore Juv Ct Early Intervention Funding	SCJA/WAJCA	-	5,000	5,000	10,000	-	1,250	5,000	6,250	-	(3,750)	-	(3,750)
B2 Continue Legal Self-Help Centers	ASD	-	-	520	520	-	-	520	520	-	-	-	-
B3 Continue Title 11 UGA Adjudications	SCJA	-	600	1,000	1,600	-	250	1,000	1,250	-	(350)	-	(350)
B4 Continue CLJ Case Mgmt System Deployment	CSD/ISD	41.00	7,080	6,024	13,104	5.00	327	1,309	1,636	41.00	(6,753)	(4,715)	(11,468)
B5 Fund Case Management IT License Fees	ISD	-	6,919	6,695	13,614	-	-	-	-	-	(6,919)	(6,695)	(13,614)
B6 Sustain Commission on Children in Foster Care	CCFC	1.50	323	326	649	-	-	-	-	1.50	(323)	(326)	(649)
B7 Sustain Disability Justice Task Force	DJTF	1.00	-	200	200	-	-	-	-	1.00	-	(200)	(200)
B8 Update Hope Card Program	CSD	1.00	204	204	408	-	-	-	-	1.00	(204)	(204)	(408)
Total 2025-27 Supplemental Operating Budget		45.50	25,809	25,911	51,720	6.00	4,400	9,650	14,050	45.50	(21,409)	(16,261)	(37,670)



Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

COURT EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. Committee Title

Court Education Committee (CEC)

II. Authority

Board for Judicial Administrative Rules (BJAR 3)

III. Purpose

The CEC will improve the quality of justice in Washington by fostering excellence in the courts through effective education. The CEC will promote sound adult education policy, develop education and curriculum standards for judicial officers and court system personnel, and promote coordination in education programs for all court levels and associations consistent with ~~its~~^{the} mission statement and core values.

IV. Policy

The CEC will establish policy and standards regarding curriculum development, instructional design, and adult education processes for statewide judicial education, using the National Association of State Judicial Educator's *Principles and Standards of Judicial Branch Education* goals:

The goal of judicial branch education is to enhance the performance of the judicial system as a whole by continuously improving the personal and professional competence of all persons performing judicial branch functions.

- 1) Help judicial branch personnel acquire the knowledge and skills required to perform their judicial branch responsibilities fairly, correctly, and efficiently.
- 2) Help judicial branch personnel adhere to the highest standards of personal and official conduct.
- 3) Help judicial branch personnel become leaders in service to their communities.
- 4) Preserve the judicial system's fairness, integrity, and impartiality by eliminating bias and prejudice.
- 5) Promote effective court practices and procedures.
- 6) Improve the administration of justice.
- 7) Ensure access to the justice system.
- 8) Enhance public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

V. Expected Deliverables or Recommendations

The CEC shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To plan, implement, coordinate, or approve BJA funded education and training for courts throughout the state.
2. Assure adequate funding for education to meet the needs of courts throughout the state and all levels of the court.
3. Collect and preserve ~~curricula, and~~ curricula and establish policy and standards for periodic review and update of curricula.
4. Develop and promote instructional standards for education programs.
5. Establish educational priorities.
6. Implement and update Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education polices and standards.
7. Develop working relationships with the other BJA standing committees and task forces.
8. Develop and implement standard curriculum for the Judicial College and District and Municipal Court Manager's Washington Court Administrator Academy per ARLJ 14. Provide education for judges and administrators that focuses on the development of leadership skills and provide tools to be used in the daily management and administration of their courts.

VI. Membership

1. Voting Members

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>	<u>Term</u>
a. <u>BJA - Appellate Representative</u>	<u>BJA Chairs</u>	<u>3 Year*</u>
b. <u>BJA - SCJA Representative</u>	<u>BJA Chairs</u>	<u>3 Year*</u>
c. <u>BJA - DMCJA Representative</u>	<u>BJA Chairs</u>	<u>3 Year*</u>
d. <u>Appellate Education Committee</u>	<u>Chief Justice</u>	<u>Determined by Chief Justice</u>
e. <u>Annual Conference Education Committee</u>	<u>Chief Justice</u>	<u>Determined by Chief Justice</u>
f. <u>SCJA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
g. <u>DMCJA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
h. <u>WSACC Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
i. <u>DMCMA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
j. <u>AWSCA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
k. <u>WAJCA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>

* Staggered terms recommended

2. Non-Voting Members

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<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>a. MPA Education Committee</u>	<u>Respective Association</u>	<u>Determined by Association</u>
<u>b. Washington State Law School Dean or the Dean's designee</u>	<u>CEC Chair and Assistant Chair recruit and submit name(s) for Committee approval</u>	<u>3 Year</u>
<u>c. AOC State Court Administrator or the Administrator's designee</u>	<u>AOC State Court Administrator</u>	<u>Determine by State Court Administrator</u>

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- ~~○ Voting Members: Three BJA members with representation from each court level~~
- ~~○ Education committee chair or a designee from the following:

 - ~~* Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)~~
 - ~~* District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA)~~
 - ~~* Appellate courts~~~~
- ~~○ Annual Conference Education Committee Chair or designee~~
- ~~○ Education committee chair or a designee from each of the following:

 - ~~* Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC)~~
 - ~~* District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)~~
 - ~~* Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators (AWSA)~~
 - ~~* Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA)~~~~
- ~~○ Washington State Law School Dean or the Dean's designee~~
- ~~○ Appointments:

 - ~~● BJA Members: Appointed by the BJA co-chairs~~
 - ~~● Judicial Members: Trial court members appointed by their respective associations and appellate member appointed by the Chief Justice~~
 - ~~● Annual Conference Chair: Annual Conference member appointed by Chief Justice~~
 - ~~● Court Administrators and County Clerk Members: Administrative and County Clerk members appointed by their respective associations~~
 - ~~● Washington State Law School Dean: CEC recruits and appoints~~~~

VII. Meetings, Quorum, and Proxies

1. There shall be regularly scheduled meetings of the BJA-CEC. The Committee Chair shall propose an annual meeting schedule, which will be approved by the Committee. Reasonable notice of the meeting shall be given to each member. Meetings may be adjusted as necessary to conduct committee business.
2. For any vote on an agenda item to take place at a meeting, a quorum of the voting members or their proxies must be present.
3. A quorum constitutes a majority (over 50%) of voting members of the Committee.
4. Any voting member may designate a proxy to attend a committee meeting and/or to vote.
5. If a quorum is not present at a scheduled meeting where a vote is called, any voting member present may call for a vote to be conducted electronically.

VII.VIII. CEC Committee Chair, Assistant Chair and Executive Committee

1. The Committee Chair shall be appointed by the BJA from the three BJA representatives. The ~~chair~~ Chair shall serve for a term of two years.
2. The Assistant Chair shall be a non-judicial representative selected by the ~~chair~~ Chair from the non-BJA representatives for a term of two years.
3. The Chair, Assistant-Chair, a non-judicial representative and the AOC Administrator or his/her designee shall constitute the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee is authorized to make time-sensitive decisions without consultation or vote of the full CEC Committee. Executive Committee will immediately ~~transmit~~ communicate the results of a decision to the CEC and the decision memorialized will be added to the next CEC meeting's agenda in the following month's minutes

VIII. Term Limits

Staggered terms recommended (suggestion: staggered three-year terms for all members);

Representing	Term/Duration
BJA Member, Appellate Courts	*First population of members will be staggered (3-year term)
BJA Member, SCJA	*
BJA Member, DMCJA	*
Appellate Court Education Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by Chief Justice

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Superior Court Judges' Association Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
District and Municipal Court Judges' Association Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
Annual Conference Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by Chief Justice
Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
District and Municipal Court Management Association Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
Washington State Association of County Clerks Education Committee Chair or Designee (1)	Term determined by their association
Washington State Law School Dean or the Dean's Designee (1)	3-year term

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~~IX.~~ Other Branch Committees Addressing the Same Topic

The CEC identified the following organizations involved in education:

- ~~• Association education committees~~
- ~~• Annual Conference Committee~~
- ~~• Gender and Justice Commission~~
- ~~• Minority and Justice Commission~~
- ~~• Court Interpreter and Language Access Commission~~
- ~~• Certified Professional Guardian Board~~
- ~~• Court Improvement Training Academy~~
- ~~• Commission on Children in Foster Care~~
- ~~• AOC's Judicial Information System Education~~

~~The CEC will establish or continue relationships with the above-named entities.~~

~~X.~~IX. Partnership with other Branch Committees

~~Foster continual relationships with the BJA Legislative, Budget and Funding and Policy and Planning Committees.~~ The CEC will coordinate and collaborate with other BJA standing committees, commissions, boards, task forces, and initiatives in

order to develop long-term strategies for the funding of education and the creation of policies and procedures that are aligned with the BJA strategies and mission statement.

XI.X. Reporting Requirements

The CEC will report at each regularly scheduled BJA meeting.

XI.XI. Recommended Review Date

Every two years from adoption of charter.

Adopted: July 18, 2014

Attached Memorandum of Understanding with BCE signed

Amended: March 20, 2015, September 19, 2014, September 18, 2015

July 15, 2022, May 19, 2023, August #, 2025.

September 5, 2025

TO: Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Members
FR: Judge Tam Bui, Chair, Court Education Committee (CEC)
RE: MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO BJA-CEC CHARTER

Motion Request: In accordance with BJA Bylaws, Article VII(1) and (3), and BJAR 3, the standing committee CEC requests the BJA approve the changes to the CEC Charter as set forth below.

Section VI – Membership

- Converted section to a table to more clearly describe representatives
- Divided members between voting and non-voting
- Added MPA representative as non-voting member
- Added AOC representative as non-voting member
- Moved Law School representative to non-voting member

Section VII – Meetings, Quorum, and Proxies

- This is a new section
- Describes how meetings will be scheduled
- Defines Quorum
- Describes how proxies are designated
- Allows the option of voting electronically (when no quorum)

Section VIII – CEC Committee Chair, Assistant Chair, Executive Committee

- Minor edits for clarity
- Include description of Executive Committee decision-making
- OLD Section VIII deleted since it is reflected in Section VI

Section IX – Partnership with other Branch Committees

- Edited to make more general to allow for future changes in committee partnerships
- OLD Section IX deleted since it is represented in this new section



September 12, 2025

TO: Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Members
FROM: Judge Rebecca Glasgow, BJA Legislative Committee Chair
RE: BJA Legislative Committee Report & Action Items

2026 Legislative Session Preparation

During the regular legislative session and any special session, the BJA Legislative Committee convenes weekly calls to discuss pending legislation. During the legislative interim, the voting members of the committee convene as necessary to review and prepare legislative proposals and develop strategies for any upcoming legislative sessions. The 2026 legislative session will be a short session, lasting 60 days. The session is scheduled to begin on January 12, 2026, and is estimated to end on March 12, 2026. Similar to last session, the legislature will continue to allow a hybrid model for committee hearings and testimony, so people will be able to appear in-person and remotely.

There were three pieces of our agency request legislation that did not successfully make it through in the 2025 session: [HB 1144](#) (Request for an additional superior court judge for Skagit county), [HB 1510](#) (Adding appellate commissioners to the PERS Judicial Benefit Multiplier Program), and [SB 5133](#) (Concerning caregiver status as a mitigating factor to exception sentences). HB 1144 and HB 1510 stalled in the House Committee on Appropriations last session and will pick up in committee again when session starts. SB 5133 stalled on the Senate floor after being pulled from Rules; the bill will be eligible to go to the Senate floor when session starts.

On May 13, 2025, the committee solicited legislative proposals for the 2026 legislative session from court levels and entities. The solicitation included information about the process and forms to submit a proposal and asked for proposals and supporting documentation to be submitted by July 18, 2025. The committee received many proposals from judicial branch stakeholders.

The voting members of the committee discussed some limitations that we will face in the 2026 session. This will be a short session with a new legislative director. We already have three pieces of agency request legislation that are still in process from the 2025 legislative session, and we expect the budget issues experienced in the 2025 session to continue.

Proposals

After discussing the proposals with the court-level representatives on the committee, and soliciting feedback from judicial stakeholders, the voting members of the committee have decided to offer the proposals summarized below for consideration by the Board.

Proposal 1: Technical Fixes (Omnibus)

Requests technical fixes to update inconsistencies in existing Washington state statutes and court rules.

- Subsection 1: Correct error/inconsistency in [RCW 9A.48.100\(2\)](#)
 - Update damage limit for malicious mischief 2 from \$250 to \$750 as updated in 2009 for [RCW 9A.48.080\(1\)\(a\)](#).
- Subsection 2: Amend civil infraction statutes ([RCW 7.80.070\(h\)](#), [RCW 7.80.050\(5\)](#), and [RCW 7.80.120\(3\)](#))
 - [RCW 7.80.070\(h\)](#) should be amended to reflect the time to respond to a notice of civil infraction consistent with the [IRLJ 2.1\(b\)](#) and [RCW 7.80.050](#).
 - [RCW 7.80.050\(5\)](#) should be amended to allow for notice of the infraction to be filed within five days consistent with [IRLJ 2.2\(d\)](#).
 - [RCW 7.80.120\(3\)](#) should be amended to allow for courts to authorize payment plans for monetary penalties imposed for civil infractions. Consistent with [IRLJ 3.6](#).
- Subsection 3: Strike [RCW 2.56.190](#)
 - The Legal Financial Obligation (LFO) Grant Program, initiated in 2003, allotted state funds to be distributed to local counties for their LFO collection accounts. The administration of this fund was moved to the State Treasurer's Office and the suggested strike updates that inconsistency in statute.
- Subsection 4: Update the implementation date in [RCW 7.105.105](#)
 - Updating CLJ implementation date for electronic tracking of protection orders from 2026 to 2028.

Proposal 2: Concerning eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel

This request would expand [RCW 4.24.680](#), the statute regarding the unlawful release of court and law enforcement employee information, to align definitions with other RCWs and provide eligible individuals with the means to request removal of personal information.

Proposal 3: Concerning enhanced threat assessments and investigative authority for the Washington Courts

This request amends [RCW 2.04.260](#) to cover all judicial officers within the Supreme Court. This is a result of experienced limitations with the current scope as it is written. It also adds a section to [RCW 2.56](#) to codify the role of Administrative Office of the Courts Security Consultants in performing similar Threat Assessments and Investigations for courts they serve and ensuring the scope of these duties is defined.

Proposal 4: Request for additional superior court judge in Yakima County

This proposal requests an additional superior court judicial position in Yakima County. Yakima County Superior Court currently has eight judges in statute and this change would take them to nine ([RCW 2.08.063](#)). The request is supported by the most recent Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) and the Yakima County Board of Commissioners.

Proposal 5: Concerning data sharing between the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

This proposal requests data to be shared from the HCA to the AOC on a monthly or quarterly basis related to the need and utilization of SUD treatment and mental health treatment by therapeutic court participants.

This data is necessary to efficiently evaluate how well therapeutic courts are meeting the needs of participants and where barriers to access are. This type of data is inconsistently collected at the therapeutic court level; thus, we are requesting access to this data on a regular basis to assist therapeutic courts in evaluating their practices.

Other proposals:

The committee also received three other proposals that the voting members of the committee decided not to forward to the BJA for consideration for the 2026 session. Generally, the voting members of the committee believed that these proposals could benefit from additional refinement through stakeholdering, or given anticipated cost or opposition, they would be better suited for proposal in a long session. These proposals are included in the materials for the Board's information.

Action Items

Based on all of the information reviewed, the committee recommends the Board vote as follows:

Action Item #1: Adopt the following position regarding the proposal for technical fixes in statute:

- 1) BJA supports the need for technical fixes in statute;
- 2) BJA will seek legislative sponsorship of the technical fixes in statute as *"agency-request legislation"*;
- 3) BJA will testify in support of the need for technical fixes in statute during the 2026 legislative session.

Action Item #2: Adopt the following position regarding the proposal concerning eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel:

- 1) BJA supports the need for expanded eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel;
- 2) BJA will seek legislative sponsorship of the proposal concerning eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel as *"agency-request legislation"*;
- 3) BJA will testify in support of the need for expanded eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel during the 2026 legislative session.

Action Item #3: Adopt the following position regarding the proposal concerning enhanced threat assessments and investigative authority for the Washington Courts:

- 1) BJA supports the need for enhanced threat assessments and investigative authority for the Washington Courts;
- 2) BJA will seek legislative sponsorship of the proposal concerning enhancements to threat assessments and investigative authority enhancement for the Washington Courts as “*agency-request legislation*”;
- 3) BJA will testify in support of the need for enhanced threat assessments and investigative authority for the Washington Courts during the 2026 legislative session.

Action Item #4: Adopt the following position regarding the proposal for an additional superior court judicial position for Yakima County:

- 1) BJA supports the need for an additional superior court judicial position in Yakima County;
- 2) BJA will seek legislative sponsorship of the additional superior court judicial positions in Yakima County as “*agency-request legislation*”;
- 3) BJA will testify in support of the request for additional superior court judicial positions in Yakima County during the 2026 legislative session.

Action Item #5: Adopt the following position regarding the proposal for data sharing between the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC):

- 1) BJA supports the need for data sharing between the HCA and the AOC;
- 2) BJA will seek legislative sponsorship of the proposal concerning data sharing between the HCA and the AOC as “*agency-request legislation*”;
- 3) BJA will testify in support of the need for data sharing between the HCA and the AOC during the 2026 legislative session.

Legislative Committee Next Activities

We recognize that this is a very ambitious agenda for the 2026 legislative session and as a result, we have secured a commitment from Kyle Landry and the Court Security Committee to play an active role in developing and promoting the two proposals related to court and judicial officer security. The new Associate Director for Judicial and Legislative Relations, in collaboration with Judge Rebecca Glasgow and Haily Perkins, will begin the appropriate legislative and stakeholder engagement based on the Board’s votes on the foregoing action items.

Cc: Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator
Haily Perkins, OJLR Court Program Supervisor

BJA Legislative Committee Recommendations for the 2026 Legislative Agenda

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	i. Proposed Statutory Changes	80

Proposal 1

Title: Technical Fixes (Omnibus)

Source: DMCJA (Subsection 1 & 2) and AOC (Subsection 3 & 4)

Summary:

- Subsection 1: Correct error/inconsistency in [RCW 9A.48.100\(2\)](#)
 - Update damage limit for malicious mischief 2 from \$250 to \$750 as updated in 2009 for [RCW 9A.48.080\(1\)\(a\)](#).
- Subsection 2: Amend civil infraction statutes ([RCW 7.80.070\(h\)](#), [RCW 7.80.050\(5\)](#), and [RCW 7.80.120\(3\)](#))
 - RCW 7.80.070(h) should be amended to reflect the time to respond to a notice of civil infraction consistent with the [IRLJ 2.1\(b\)](#) and RCW 7.80.050.
 - RCW 7.80.050(5) should be amended to allow for notice of the infraction to be filed within five days consistent with [IRLJ 2.2\(d\)](#).
 - RCW 7.80.120(3) should be amended to allow for courts to authorize payment plans for monetary penalties imposed for civil infractions. Consistent with [IRLJ 3.6](#).
- Subsection 3: Strike [RCW 2.56.190](#)
 - The Legal Financial Obligation (LFO) Grant Program, initiated in 2003, allotted state funds to be distributed to local counties for their LFO collection accounts. The administration of this fund was moved to the State Treasurer's Office and the suggested amendment updates that inconsistency in statute.
- Subsection 4: Update implementation date in [RCW 7.105.105](#)
 - Updating CLJ implementation date for electronic tracking of protection orders from 2026 to 2028.

Subsection 1: Suggested Language

RCW 9A.48.100(2)

(2) If more than one item of property is physically damaged as a result of a common scheme or plan by a person and the physical damage to the property would, when considered separately, constitute mischief in the third degree because of value, then the value of the damages may be aggregated in one count. If the sum of the value of all the physical damages exceeds ~~two hundred fifty dollars~~ seven hundred fifty dollars, the defendant may be charged with and convicted of malicious mischief in the second degree.

Subsection 2: Suggested Language

RCW 7.80.070

Notice—Determination final unless contested—Form.

(h) A statement that the person must respond to the notice as provided in this chapter within ~~fifteen~~ thirty days of the date the notice is personally served or, if the notice is served by mail, within thirty-three days of the date the notice is mailed;

RCW 7.80.050

Notice of infraction—Issuance, service, filing.

(5) A notice of infraction shall be filed with a court having jurisdiction within ~~forty-eight hours~~ five days of issuance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. In the absence of good cause shown, A notice of infraction not filed within the time limits prescribed in this section shall, upon motion, be dismissed without prejudice.

RCW 7.80.120

Monetary penalties—Restitution.

(3) Whenever a monetary penalty is imposed by a court under this chapter it is immediately payable. If the person is unable to pay at that time the court may grant an extension of the period in which the penalty may be paid. If the penalty is not paid on or before the time established for payment, the court may proceed to collect the penalty in the same manner as other civil judgments and may notify the prosecuting authority of the failure to pay.

NEW SECTION (a) A person may request a payment plan at any time for the payment of any monetary penalty, fee, cost, assessment, or other monetary obligation associated with an infraction.

(i) Mandatory. If the court determines that the person does not have the ability to pay the monetary obligation in full, and the person has not previously been granted a payment plan for the same monetary obligation, and the court has not authorized its collections agency to take civil legal enforcement action, the court shall enter into a payment plan with the individual.

(ii) Discretionary. Where the court has authorized its collections agency to take civil legal enforcement action, the court may, at its discretion, enter into a payment plan.

Subsection 3: Strike RCW 2.56.190

AOC recommends that the Legislature strike the language of RCW 2.56.190 to align with Section 710 of ESSB 5187 [2023-2025 Biennial Budget Bill].

~~By October 1, 2003, and annually thereafter, the administrative office of the courts shall distribute such funds to counties for county clerk collection budgets as are appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, using the funding formula recommended by the Washington association of county officials. The administrative office of the courts shall not deduct any amount for indirect or direct costs, and shall distribute the entire amount appropriated by the legislature to the counties for county clerk collection budgets. The administrative office of the courts shall report on the amounts distributed to counties to the appropriate committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2003, and annually thereafter. The administrative office of the courts may expend for the purposes of billing for legal financial obligations, such funds as are appropriated for the legislature for this purpose.~~

Subsection 4: Suggest Language

RCW 7.105.105

Filing—Provisions governing all petitions.

(1)(a) By January 1, 2023, county clerks on behalf of all superior courts and, by January 1, ~~2026~~2028, all courts of limited jurisdiction, must permit petitions for protection orders and all other filings in connection with the petition to be submitted as preferred by the petitioner either: (i) In person; (ii) remotely through an electronic submission process; or (iii) by mail for persons who are incarcerated or who are otherwise unable to file in person or remotely through an electronic system. The court or clerk must make available electronically to judicial officers any protection orders filed within the state. Judicial officers may not be charged for access to such documents. The electronic submission system must allow for petitions for protection orders and supportive documents to be submitted at any time of the day. When a petition and supporting documents for a protection order are submitted to the clerk after business hours, they must be processed as soon as possible on the next judicial day. Petitioners and respondents should not incur additional charges for electronic submission for petitions and documents filed pursuant to this section.

(b) By January 1, 2023, all superior courts' systems and, by January 1, ~~2026~~2028, all limited jurisdiction courts' systems, should allow for the petitioner to electronically track the progress of the petition for a protection order. Notification may be provided by text messaging or email, and should provide reminders of court appearances and alert the petitioner when the following occur: (i) The petition has been processed and is under review by a judicial officer; (ii) the order has been signed; (iii) the order has been transmitted to law enforcement for entry into the Washington crime information center system; (iv) proof of service upon the respondent has been filed with the court or clerk; (v) a receipt for the surrender of firearms has been filed with the court or clerk; and (vi) the respondent has filed a motion for the release of surrendered firearms. Respondents, once served, should be able to sign up for similar electronic notification. Petitioners and respondents should not be charged for electronic notification.



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

Please submit completed forms and supporting documentation/drafts to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted by July 12.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

This form is **only** used when: 1) a proposal requires statutory amendment (i.e., changes to language in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)); **and** 2) the judicial branch proponent of the proposal wishes to request support and action for it from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA).

Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

- *If no, please proceed to Question 2.*
- *If yes, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

Please visit https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd/budgetDevelopment for information about the Washington Courts budget submittal process. The budget submittal process is administered by Mr. Christopher Stanley and involves review of proposals and documentation by the BJA and the Supreme Court.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, convening a task force or work group, including invitations for legislators to participate, does not require legislation.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 3.*

¹ The state legislature establishes and amends the state's budgets and statutes. Various court associations, jurisdictions, and entities participate independently in Washington's legislative processes. Sometimes, a court entity would like the support of the BJA for a particular proposal. The BJA has two separate processes for developing and reviewing proposals and submitting them to the legislature: one for budget proposals (i.e., "decision packages") and one for bill drafts (i.e., changes to the Revised Code of Washington).

Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, if a particular court level association wishes to pursue legislation at its own request, then sharing information about it with the BJA Legislative Committee is appreciated, but obtaining BJA support using this form is not necessary.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 4.*

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

- *If yes, please complete PART I only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 12. You may skip PART II of this form.*
- *If no, please complete PART II only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 12. You may skip PART I of this form.*

PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

Summary/Request Justification

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why, if known.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why, if known.

Revised April 2024

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RCW 4.24.680

Unlawful release of court and law enforcement employee information—Exception.

(1) A person shall not knowingly make available on the world wide web the personal information of a peace officer, corrections person, justice, judge, administrative law judge appointed under Title 34, commissioner, public defender, or prosecutor, court clerk, or Criminal Justice Participant as defined by RCW 9A.90.120 if the dissemination of the personal information poses an imminent and serious threat to the peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, administrative law judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's, court clerk, or Criminal Justice Participant's safety or the safety of that person's immediate family, ~~and the threat is reasonably apparent to the person making the information available on the world wide web to be serious and imminent.~~

(2) It is not a violation of this section if an employee of a county auditor or county assessor publishes personal information, in good faith, on the website of the county auditor or county assessor in the ordinary course of carrying out public functions: provided that the employee, county auditor, or county assessor comply with requests to shield or remove personal information of pursuant to section (3).

(3) Any agency, business, person, data broker, or website who receives a notice or request from a peace officer, corrections person, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, court clerk, or Criminal Justice Participant as defined by RCW 9A.90.120 or their Authorized Agent for removal of their personal information must comply within 10 business days following physical or electronic receipt of the request or notice to remove the person's personal information.

(a) An agency, business, person, data broker, or website may not disclose or redisclose, including, but not limited to, on the Internet, the protected information of any eligible person who submits a request or notice for removal.

~~(3)~~ (4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Commissioner" means a commissioner of the superior court, court of appeals, or supreme court.

(b) "Corrections person" means any employee or volunteer who by state, county, municipal, or combination thereof, statute has the responsibility for the confinement, care, management, training, treatment, education, supervision, or counseling of those whose civil rights have been limited in some way by legal sanction.

(c) "Immediate family" means a peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, administrative law judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's, court clerk's or Criminal Justice Participant's spouse, child, or parent and any other adult who lives in the same residence as the person.

(d) "Judge" means a judge of the United States district court, the United States court of appeals, the United States magistrate, the United States bankruptcy court, ~~and the Washington court of appeals, superior court, district court, or municipal court,~~ and administrative law judges appointed under Title 34.

(e) "Justice" means a justice of the United States supreme court or Washington supreme court.

(f) "Personal information" means a peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's, court clerk's or Criminal Justice Participant's home address, home telephone number, pager number, social

security number, home email address, directions to the person's home, or photographs of the person's home or vehicle.

(g) "Prosecutor" means a county prosecuting attorney, a city attorney, the attorney general, or a United States attorney and their assistants or deputies.

(h) "Public defender" means a federal public defender, or other public defender, and his or her assistants or deputies.

(i) "Court clerk" means any individual performing the duties of RCW [2.32.050](#).

(J) "Criminal Justice Participant" means any individual defined by relevant sections of RCW [9A.90.120](#).

(K) "Authorized Agent" means any persons or entities authorized to act on behalf of any peace officer, corrections person, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, prosecutor, Court Clerk or Criminal Justice Participant as defined by RCW 9A.90.120 to submit or revoke a request for nondisclosure of personal information and to engage in communications and enforcement.

Amendment

RCW [9A.90.120](#)

Cyber harassment.

(1) A person is guilty of cyber harassment if the person, with intent to harass or intimidate any other person, and under circumstances not constituting telephone harassment, makes an electronic communication to that person or a third party and the communication:

(a)(i) Uses any lewd, lascivious, indecent, or obscene words, images, or language, or suggests the commission of any lewd or lascivious act;

(ii) Is made anonymously or repeatedly;

(iii) Contains a threat to inflict bodily injury immediately or in the future on the person threatened or to any other person; or

(iv) Contains a threat to damage, immediately or in the future, the property of the person threatened or of any other person; and

(b) With respect to any offense committed under the circumstances identified in (a)(iii) or (iv) of this subsection:

(i) Would cause a reasonable person, with knowledge of the sender's history, to suffer emotional distress or to fear for the safety of the person threatened; or

(ii) Reasonably caused the threatened person to suffer emotional distress or fear for the threatened person's safety.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, cyber harassment is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) A person who commits cyber harassment is guilty of a class C felony if any of the following apply:

(i) The person has previously been convicted in this or any other state of any crime of harassment, as defined in RCW [9A.46.060](#), of the same victim or members of the victim's family or household or any person specifically named in a no-contact or no-harassment order;

(ii) The person cyber harasses another person under subsection (1)(a)(iii) of this section by threatening to kill the person threatened or any other person;

- (iii) The person cyber harasses a criminal justice participant or election official who is performing the participant's official duties or election official's official duties at the time the communication is made;
 - (iv) The person cyber harasses a criminal justice participant or election official because of an action taken or decision made by the criminal justice participant or election official during the performance of the participant's official duties or election official's official duties; or
 - (v) The person commits cyber harassment in violation of any protective order protecting the victim.
- (3) Any criminal justice participant or election official who is a target for threats or harassment prohibited under subsection (2)(b)(iii) or (iv) of this section, and any family members residing with the participant or election official, shall be eligible for the address confidentiality program created under RCW [40.24.030](#).
- (4) For purposes of this section, a criminal justice participant includes any:
- (a) Federal, state, or municipal court judge;
 - (b) Federal, state, or municipal court staff;
 - (c) Federal, state, or local law enforcement agency employee;
 - (d) Federal, state, or local prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney;
 - (e) Staff member of any adult corrections institution or local adult detention facility;
 - (f) Staff member of any juvenile corrections institution or local juvenile detention facility;
 - (g) Community corrections officer, probation officer, or parole officer;
 - (h) Member of the indeterminate sentence review board;
 - (i) Advocate from a crime victim/witness program; or
 - (j) Defense attorney.
 - (k) State or Local Clerk Staff
 - (l) Administrative law judges appointed under Title 34
- (5) For the purposes of this section, an election official includes any staff member of the office of the secretary of state or staff member of a county auditor's office, regardless of whether the member is employed on a temporary or part-time basis, whose duties relate to voter registration or the processing of votes as provided in Title [29A](#) RCW.
- (6) The penalties provided in this section for cyber harassment do not preclude the victim from seeking any other remedy otherwise available under law.
- (7) Any offense committed under this section may be deemed to have been committed either at the place from which the communication was made or at the place where the communication was received.
- (8) For purposes of this section, "electronic communication" means the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. "Electronic communication" includes, but is not limited to, email, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.

Amendment

RCW [9A.46.020](#)

Definition—Penalties.

- (1) A person is guilty of harassment if:
 - (a) Without lawful authority, the person knowingly threatens:

(i) To cause bodily injury immediately or in the future to the person threatened or to any other person; or

(ii) To cause physical damage to the property of a person other than the actor; or

(iii) To subject the person threatened or any other person to physical confinement or restraint; or

(iv) Maliciously to do any other act which is intended to substantially harm the person threatened or another with respect to his or her physical health or safety; and

(b) The person by words or conduct places the person threatened in reasonable fear that the threat will be carried out. "Words or conduct" includes, in addition to any other form of communication or conduct, the sending of an electronic communication.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a person who harasses another is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(b) A person who harasses another is guilty of a class C felony if any of the following apply: (i) The person has previously been convicted in this or any other state of any crime of harassment, as defined in RCW [9A.46.060](#), of the same victim or members of the victim's family or household or any person specifically named in a no-contact or no-harassment order; (ii) the person harasses another person under subsection (1)(a)(i) of this section by threatening to kill the person threatened or any other person; (iii) the person harasses a criminal justice participant or election official who is performing his or her official duties at the time the threat is made; or (iv) the person harasses a criminal justice participant or election official because of an action taken or decision made by the criminal justice participant or election official during the performance of his or her official duties. For the purposes of (b)(iii) and (iv) of this subsection, the fear from the threat must be a fear that a reasonable criminal justice participant or election official would have under all the circumstances. Threatening words do not constitute harassment if it is apparent to the criminal justice participant or election official that the person does not have the present and future ability to carry out the threat.

(3) Any criminal justice participant or election official who is a target for threats or harassment prohibited under subsection (2)(b)(iii) or (iv) of this section, and any person residing with him or her, shall be eligible for the address confidentiality program created under RCW [40.24.030](#).

(4) For purposes of this section, a criminal justice participant includes any

(a) Federal, state, or municipal court judge;

(b) Federal, state, or municipal court staff;

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(bd) federal, state, or local prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney;

(ee) staff member of any adult corrections institution or local adult detention facility;

(df) staff member of any juvenile corrections institution or local juvenile detention facility;

(eg) community corrections officer, probation, or parole officer;

(fh) member of the indeterminate sentence review board;

(gi) advocate from a crime victim/witness program;

or (hj) Defense attorney;

(k) State or Local Clerk staff

(l) Administrative law judges appointed under Title 34

(5) For the purposes of this section, an election official includes any staff member of the office of the secretary of state or staff member of a county auditor's office, regardless of

whether the member is employed on a temporary or part-time basis, whose duties relate to voter registration or the processing of votes as provided in Title [29A](#) RCW.

(6) The penalties provided in this section for harassment do not preclude the victim from seeking any other remedy otherwise available under law.



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Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

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PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

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Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

Summary/Request Justification

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why, if known.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why, if known.

Revised April 2024

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Amend existing section

RCW 2.04.260

Bailiffs—Threat assessments and investigations.

- (1) Bailiffs of the supreme court are authorized to conduct threat assessments on behalf of supreme court ~~justices~~ judicial officers. The supreme court shall ensure that supreme court bailiffs are qualified by training and experience if they perform these duties.
- (2) Bailiffs of the supreme court are authorized to receive criminal history record information that includes nonconviction data for purposes exclusively related to the investigation of any person making a threat as defined in RCW [9A.04.110](#) against a supreme court judicial officer. Dissemination or use of criminal history records or nonconviction data for purposes other than authorized in this section is prohibited.
- (3) Founded threats investigated under this section must be referred to local law enforcement for further action. Local law enforcement is authorized to report the outcome and any anticipated action to bailiffs of the supreme court.

Add new section

RCW 2.56

Security Consultant – Threat assessments and Investigations

- (1) Administrative Office of the Courts Security Consultants are authorized to conduct threat assessments on behalf of judicial officers. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall ensure that Security Consultants are qualified by training and experience if they perform these duties.
- (2) Administrative Office of the Courts Security Consultants are authorized to receive criminal history record information that includes nonconviction data for purposes exclusively related to the investigation of any person making a threat as defined in RCW 9A.04.110 against a judicial officer. Dissemination or use of criminal history records or nonconviction data for purposes other than authorized in this section is prohibited.
- (3) Founded threats investigated under this section must be referred to local law enforcement or the for further action. Local law enforcement is authorized to report the outcome and any anticipated action to Administrative Office of the Courts Security Consultants.



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

Please submit completed forms and supporting documentation/drafts to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted by July 18.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

This form is **only** used when: 1) a proposal requires statutory amendment (i.e., changes to language in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)); **and** 2) the judicial branch proponent of the proposal wishes to request support and action for it from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA).

Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

- *If no, please proceed to Question 2.*
- *If yes, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

Please visit https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd/budgetDevelopment for information about the Washington Courts budget submittal process. The budget submittal process is administered by Mr. Christopher Stanley and involves review of proposals and documentation by the BJA and the Supreme Court.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, convening a task force or work group, including invitations for legislators to participate, does not require legislation.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 3.*

¹ The state legislature establishes and amends the state's budgets and statutes. Various court associations, jurisdictions, and entities participate independently in Washington's legislative processes. Sometimes, a court entity would like the support of the BJA for a particular proposal. The BJA has two separate processes for developing and reviewing proposals and submitting them to the legislature: one for budget proposals (i.e., "decision packages") and one for bill drafts (i.e., changes to the Revised Code of Washington).

Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, if a particular court level association wishes to pursue legislation at its own request, then sharing information about it with the BJA Legislative Committee is appreciated, but obtaining BJA support using this form is not necessary.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 4.*

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

- *If yes, please complete PART I only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART II of this form.*
- *If no, please complete PART II only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART I of this form.*

PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Yakima County Superior Court

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Jessica Humphreys 509-574-2736 jessica.humphreys@co.yakima.wa.us

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Since 1998, the Yakima County Superior Court has been providing justice to the Yakima Valley community with a panel of 8 judges and 2.5 Court Commissioners. It is vital that the residents of Yakima County receive high-quality and timely service from the Superior Court. As the community continues to grow, it is essential for the Superior Court to maintain its ability to deliver quality case engagement and focus, as well as timely resolutions to the local community. This is necessary not only to uphold the rule of law but also to ensure effective case management. Providing prompt and effective justice with an emphasis on procedural fairness

is a fundamental principle of the Superior Court in Yakima County. To achieve this, there must be enough judicial officers to handle the increasing caseloads. It is not only the number of cases but also the complexity of cases presented to the court that must be taken into account. The current workload for the Yakima County Superior Court bench has started to affect the quality of justice, leading to significant delays for litigants and their families. This situation adversely affects access to justice for marginalized communities, the timely resolution of legal disputes, and the ability of individuals and businesses to navigate the legal system successfully. Yakima County Superior Court's assessment of clearance rates over the past five years indicates that civil and domestic cases have surpassed the court's capacity to resolve cases before new cases are filed. (Please review Table 1). Kitsap County is a comparable county, both in population and in the number of judicial officers on the bench. However, the two counties differ in their capacity to resolve cases. As illustrated in the attached table, Yakima County had 27% more case filings in 2024 than Kitsap, and there are 64.17% more unresolved cases in Yakima County. (Please review Table 2).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Currently, Yakima County Superior Court is staffed by 8 judges and 2.5 Court Commissioners. The Judicial Needs Estimate conducted by AOC in 2020, indicates that Yakima County Superior Court needs 11.89 judicial officers to effectively handle the workload. As an example in the increase to judicial workload, a chart is attached to this request that shows Yakima County Superior Court caseload data for Civil Protection Order filings as well as the Civil Protection Order hearings covering the period from 2015- June 2025. (Please review Table 3).

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.

The budget cycle in Yakima County commences in May of each year. Regarding the 2026 budget, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the need to increase the number of judges on the Superior Court bench and supports the court's need. The Board of County Commissioners have provided a letter of support to that effect. This letter is attached for your reference. Yakima County Superior Court will have an adopted budget in September for the 2026 budget cycle. As soon as the budget is adopted, the adopted budget will be submitted to the BJA as an attachment to this request. Additionally, letters of support provided by other law and justice partners in Yakima County are also attached to this request.

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

We are currently in communication with our local representatives, to request their support. A letter of endorsement has been issued by the County Commissioners, and we will furnish additional information as they reply to our request for support. Currently, the court is not informed of any organizations opposing this addition to the Yakima County Superior Court bench.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions

Request Title

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

Summary/Request Justification

Summarize the request and the need for it.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

--

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why.

--

TABLE 1- YAKIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNUAL CASE CLEARANCE RATES

Yakima Superior Filings									
Year	Criminal (1)	Civil (2)	Domestic	Probate/ Guardianship (5)	Adoption/ Parentage (3)	Mental Illness/ Alcohol	Juvenile Dependency (4)	Juvenile Offender (1)	Total Filings
2020	2211	2348	1022	804	291	1049	431	561	8717
2021	2104	2262	1034	957	271	1044	359	320	8351
2022	2166	2706	942	979	244	818	418	426	8699
2023	1959	3258	1033	972	252	816	429	421	9140
2024	1909	3838	922	940	249	1135	346	451	9790
Yakima Superior Resolutions									
County/Court	Criminal (1)	Civil (2)	Domestic	Probate/ Guardianship (5)	Adoption/ Parentage (3)	Mental Illness/ Alcohol	Juvenile Dependency (4)	Juvenile Offender (1)	Total Resolutions
2020	1768	2533	1271	425	356	1049	514	595	8511
2021	2001	1859	925	201	294	822	268	302	6672
2022	1741	2220	922	285	242	39	365	341	6155
2023	2108	2611	824	640	212	318	355	418	7486
2024	2033	3422	655	542	234	1210	347	443	8886
Yakima Superior Clearance Rate									
County/Court	Criminal (1)	Civil (2)	Domestic	Probate/ Guardianship (5)	Adoption/ Parentage (3)	Mental Illness/ Alcohol	Juvenile Dependency (4)	Juvenile Offender (1)	Clearance Rate
2020	0.799638173	1.07879046	1.243639922	0.528606965	1.223367698	1	1.192575406	1.060606061	0.976368017
2021	0.951045627	0.82183908	0.894584139	0.210031348	1.084870849	0.787356322	0.746518106	0.94375	0.798946234
2022	0.80378578	0.820399113	0.978768577	0.291113381	0.991803279	0.047677262	0.873205742	0.800469484	0.707552592
2023	1.076059214	0.801411909	0.79767667	0.658436214	0.841269841	0.389705882	0.827505828	0.992874109	0.819037199
2024	1.064955474	0.891610214	0.710412148	0.576595745	0.939759036	1.066079295	1.002890173	0.982261641	0.907660878

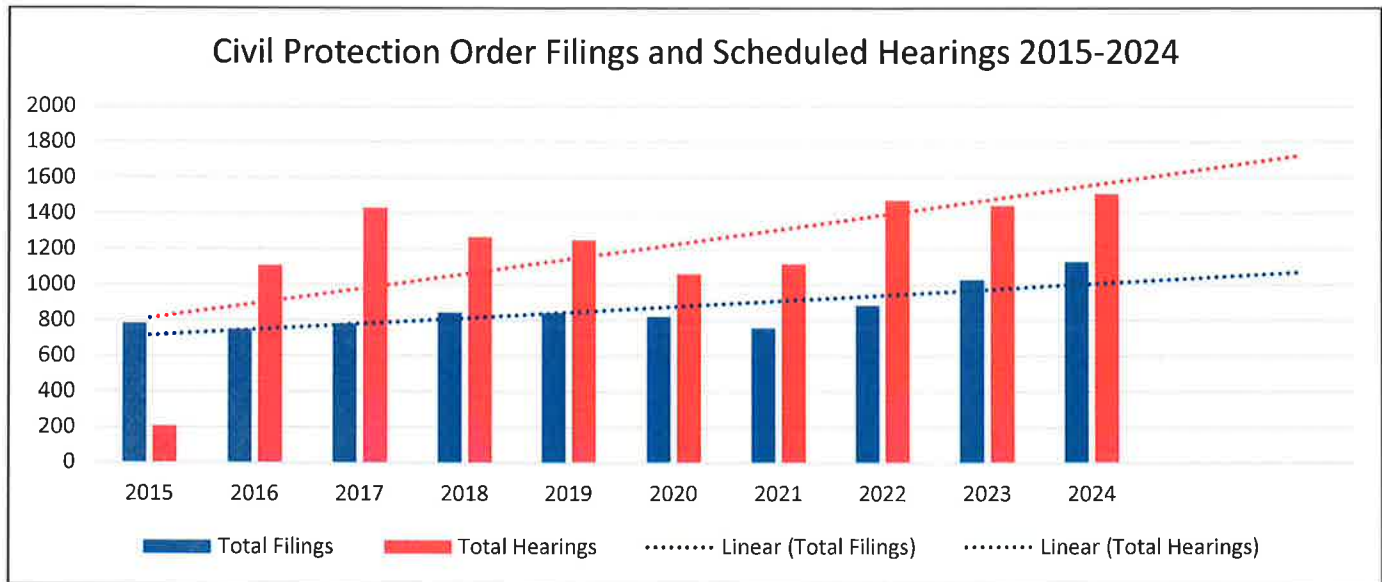
Yakima's Clearance Rates over the last 5 years. If the number is greater than 1, Yakima Superior Court resolved more cases of that type than it had filed in that year. If the number is lower than 1, then the number of case filings outpaced the court's ability to resolve it.

TABLE 2- EQUITABLE COUNTY COMPARISONS

The population in Yakima County is similar to the population in Kitsap County, with a comparable number of members of the bench. However, the two counties differ in the number of case filings and resolutions. (see table below).

Superior Court	2024 Active Cases	2024 Case Filings	% Increase or Decrease-Case Filings Yakima County	Cases Pending Resolution over 9 months	% Increase or Decrease-Cases Pending Resolution Yakima County	Judicial Officers
Yakima	2,051	9,790	+27%	3,604	+64.17%	10.5
Kitsap	2,253	7,430		1,853		10

TABLE 3- YAKIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER FILINGS AND SCHEDULED HEARINGS
FOR 2015-2024



*2015 data is based on the court's conversion to the Odyssey DMS system in November 2015.



JOSEPH A. BRUSIC

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

128 North Second Street, Room 329

Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: (509) 574-1210 Fax: (509) 574-1211

E-mail: Joseph.brusic@co.yakima.wa.us

Web Site: <http://co.yakima.wa.us/pa/>

July 1, 2025

Dawn Marie Rubio
Administrative Office of the Courts
1112 Quince St. SE
P.O. Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

RE: NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL POSITION IN YAKIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Dear Dawn:

I would like to express my strong support for the establishment of an additional judge position in the Yakima County Superior Court. It is essential that the residents of Yakima County receive high-quality and prompt service from our Superior Court. As the community continues to expand, the volume and complexity of cases presented to the court are also on the rise. The last addition of a Superior Court judge to the bench occurred in 1998. We need another Superior Court judge to provide access to the court system here in Yakima County.

Currently the Superior Court is comprised of 8 Judges and 2.5 Court Commissioners. The Administrative Office of the Courts 2020 Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) indicates a requirement for 11.89 judicial positions in Yakima County.

I acknowledge the impact that the increased workload and demand on the Judicial Officers of the Yakima County Superior Court have on their capacity to deliver justice promptly, and I support legislation to permit the addition of another judge. The Yakima County Superior Court has secured support and funding for 50% of the new judicial position from the Yakima County Board of County Commissioners.

The workload on the existing judges has become detrimental to the quality of justice, resulting in considerable delays for litigants and their families. This scenario adversely affects access to justice for underserved communities, the timely resolution of legal disputes, and the ability of individuals and businesses to effectively navigate the legal system. For these reasons, I support Yakima County Superior Court's request to add another judge to their bench.

The addition of a judge position would significantly reduce these pressures and lead to concrete improvements such as enhanced access to justice and better resource distribution within the court system.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Brusich
Yakima County Prosecutor



YAKIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT UDELL, Sheriff

P.O. Box 1388 Yakima, Washington 98907 TELEPHONE: (509) 574-2500 FAX: (509) 574-2601

To: *Administrative Office of the Courts*
1112 Quince St. SE
PO Box 41170
Olympia WA 98504-1170

From: Sheriff Robert Udell

Date: June 30, 2025

Re: Additional Yakima County Superior Court Judge Position

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the establishment of an additional judge position in the Yakima County Superior Court. It is essential that the residents of Yakima County receive high-quality and prompt service from our Superior Court. As the community continues to expand, the volume and complexity of cases presented to the court are also on the rise. The last addition of a Superior Court judge to the bench occurred in 1998.

Currently the Superior Court is comprised of 8 Judges and 2.5 Court Commissioners. The *Administrative Office of the Courts 2020 Judicial Needs Estimate* (JNE) indicates a requirement for 11.89 judicial positions in Yakima County. The addition of one superior court position would bring the total number of judicial positions to 11.5, still below the JNE, but a welcome addition to the court's capacity.

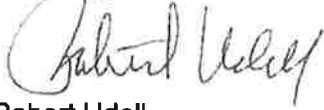
I know first-hand the impact that the increased workload and demand on the Judicial Officers of the Yakima County Superior Court have on their capacity to deliver justice promptly, and I support legislation to permit the addition of another judge. The Yakima County Superior Court has secured support and funding for 50% of the new judicial position from the Yakima County Board of County Commissioners. That was not an easy task considering the budget constraints, but the BOCC's support acknowledges the well-known need of the Yakima County Superior court bench.

The workload on the existing judges has become detrimental to the quality of justice, resulting in considerable delays for litigants and their families. This scenario adversely affects access to justice for underserved communities, the timely resolution of legal disputes, and the ability of individuals and businesses to effectively navigate the legal system. For these reasons, I support Yakima County Superior Court's request to add another judge to their bench.

The mission of the Yakima County Sheriff's Office is to enhance public safety, with integrity and professionalism

The addition of a judge position would significantly reduce these pressures and lead to concrete improvements such as enhanced access to justice and better resource distribution within the court system. Yakima County has significant needs driven by economic issues and above-average crime rates. We welcome support to increase the number of superior court judicial positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Udell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Udell".

Robert Udell
Sheriff, Yakima County Sheriff's Office



YAKIMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

111 North Front Street Yakima, Washington 98901 (509) 574-1700

June 20, 2025

Dear

RE: NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL POSITION IN YAKIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Support is being sought for the establishment of an additional judge position in the Yakima County Superior Court. It is essential that the residents of Yakima County receive high- quality and prompt service from our Superior Court. As the community continues to expand, the volume and complexity of cases presented to the court are also on the rise. The last addition of a Superior Court judge to the bench occurred in 1998.

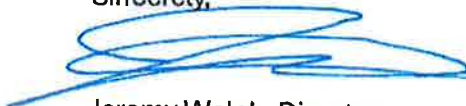
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The workload on the existing judges has become detrimental to the quality of justice, resulting in considerable delays for litigants and their families. This scenario adversely affects access to justice for underserved communities, the timely resolution of legal disputes, and the ability of individuals and businesses to effectively navigate the legal system. For these reasons, I support Yakima County Superior Court's request to add another judge to their bench.

The addition of a judge position would significantly reduce these pressures and lead to concrete improvements such as enhanced access to justice and better resource distribution within the court system.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Welch, Director

Service, Pride, Integrity

Yakima County
DEPARTMENT of ASSIGNED COUNSEL
104 North 1st Street
Yakima, Washington 98901
(509) 574-1160 / 1-800-572-7354
Fax (509) 574-1161

Paul Kelley, *Director*
Peggy Walker, *Office Supervisor*

July 15, 2025

Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
P.O. Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-117

RE: Yakima County's Request for Additional Superior Court Position

Dear Ms. Rubio,

I am the Director of the public defender program for Yakima County. I ask for your support in Yakima County's effort to establish an additional judge position in the Yakima County Superior Court. As Yakima County grows, so does the needs of its justice system. This is even more true at a time when the workload of our courts rises due to mandated changes in procedure and law, civil and criminal. Currently, the resources of our local court system are stretched thin, slowing down its response to our community's needs... eroding our community's confidence in its justice system. Your support will help in Yakima County's effort to resolve this pressing problem in this growing community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul Kelley, Director
Yakima County DAC



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney
District 1

Kyle Curtis
District 2

LaDon Linde
District 3

June 16, 2025

Ms. Dawn Marie Rubio
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Dear Ms. Rubio:

The Yakima County Board of Commissioners supports the Yakima County Superior Court's request to create an additional judicial position for Yakima County. We recognize the effects that the increased workload and demand on our judicial officers have on their ability to administer justice in a timely manner, and we support legislation to authorize an additional judge.

In support of this additional position, we have reached consensus for inclusion of approximately \$123K, representing 50% of the position's salary per the 2026 salary schedule, in the County's General fund beginning in 2026. This appropriation will be formalized in December 2025, pursuant to the County's established budget-development processes.

We have also discussed the need for an additional judge with our local legislative delegation, to indicate that we would be writing to support request legislation from the Board for Judicial Administration for this additional position.

Sincerely,

Kyle Curtis
Chair of the Board
Commissioner, District 2

LaDon Linde
Commissioner, District 3

Amanda McKinney
Commissioner, District 1



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

Please submit completed forms and supporting documentation/drafts to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted by July 18.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

This form is **only** used when: 1) a proposal requires statutory amendment (i.e., changes to language in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)); **and** 2) the judicial branch proponent of the proposal wishes to request support and action for it from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA).

Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

- *If no, please proceed to Question 2.*
- *If yes, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

Please visit https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd/budgetDevelopment for information about the Washington Courts budget submittal process. The budget submittal process is administered by Mr. Christopher Stanley and involves review of proposals and documentation by the BJA and the Supreme Court.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, convening a task force or work group, including invitations for legislators to participate, does not require legislation.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 3.*

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Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, if a particular court level association wishes to pursue legislation at its own request, then sharing information about it with the BJA Legislative Committee is appreciated, but obtaining BJA support using this form is not necessary.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 4.*

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

- *If yes, please complete PART I only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART II of this form.*
- *If no, please complete PART II only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART I of this form.*

PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Data sharing between Health Care Authority and the Administrative Office of the Courts

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

AOC / Administrative Services Division / Washington State Center for Court Research / Carl McCurley,
carl.mccurley@courts.wa.gov

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

AOC has met with HCA dozens of times since 2021 to establish effective data sharing practices to support ongoing program improvement of therapeutic courts across the state. The level of data required to efficiently benefit local therapeutic courts would be much easier to share if the legislature requires it. This data concerns the need and utilization of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and mental health treatment of therapeutic court participants. After several attempts to share this data through the available routes, we've learned the data available to us is severely limited.

Summary/Request Justification

Summarize the request and the need for it.

We are requesting data shared from the Health Care authority on a monthly or quarterly basis related to the need and utilization of SUD treatment and mental health treatment by therapeutic court participants.

This data is necessary to efficiently evaluate how well therapeutic courts are meeting the needs of participants and where barriers to access are. This type of data is inconsistently collected at the therapeutic court level; thus, we are requesting this data on a regular basis to assist therapeutic courts in evaluating their practices.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

New section of Chapter 41.05 RCW
(see additional sheet at end for language)

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

Increased data availability and utilization will impact CLJ and Superior Courts that run therapeutic court programs. Specifically, the utilization of this data will provide therapeutic courts a way to review how well they are meeting participant needs as it relates to treatment.

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

No new costs are expected. Modest savings could occur.

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Program evaluation is required to continually improve program operations and outcomes. Data is imperative to those efforts. Access to, and utilization of, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and mental health treatment is a key component to therapeutic court models. The inability to routinely assess the need and utilization of treatment is a huge gap in the therapeutic court practice. This is necessary data to understand how well therapeutic courts are serving their participants. This data will help identify service needs that are unable to be met due to lack of services or other barriers.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

Key stakeholders are the court professionals who need information to understand the effect of therapeutic courts.

We spoke with Health Care Authority (Teesha Kirschbaum teesha.kirschbaum@hca.wa.gov) before starting the language for this. She is ready and willing to review the language in support of this venture.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why.

It's possible someone will oppose the legislation due to the type of data we're requesting. However, the court hearings where treatment progress is discussed are generally public hearings. Additionally, a SUD or MH need are generally requirements to be admitted into a therapeutic court.

Revised May 2025

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Potential language:

No later than December 31, 2025, the authority, in cooperation with Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis shall provide to the Administrative Office of the Courts's Washington State Center for Court Research reports of individual substance abuse, mental health and physical health treatment records including, at minimum:

1. Demographic and identity information regarding the individual receiving services;
2. Name and location of the facility providing services;
3. Information regarding assessments or tests provided; and
4. Information regarding services provided.

Sufficient information shall be provided to enable matching individuals receiving services to court records, and updated records shall be provided no less frequently than quarterly.



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

Please submit completed forms and supporting documentation/drafts to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted by July 18.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

This form is **only** used when: 1) a proposal requires statutory amendment (i.e., changes to language in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)); **and** 2) the judicial branch proponent of the proposal wishes to request support and action for it from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA).

Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

- *If no, please proceed to Question 2.*
- *If yes, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

Please visit https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd/budgetDevelopment for information about the Washington Courts budget submittal process. The budget submittal process is administered by Mr. Christopher Stanley and involves review of proposals and documentation by the BJA and the Supreme Court.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, convening a task force or work group, including invitations for legislators to participate, does not require legislation.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 3.*

¹ The state legislature establishes and amends the state's budgets and statutes. Various court associations, jurisdictions, and entities participate independently in Washington's legislative processes. Sometimes, a court entity would like the support of the BJA for a particular proposal. The BJA has two separate processes for developing and reviewing proposals and submitting them to the legislature: one for budget proposals (i.e., "decision packages") and one for bill drafts (i.e., changes to the Revised Code of Washington).

Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, if a particular court level association wishes to pursue legislation at its own request, then sharing information about it with the BJA Legislative Committee is appreciated, but obtaining BJA support using this form is not necessary.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 4.*

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

- *If yes, please complete PART I only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART II of this form.*
- *If no, please complete PART II only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART I of this form.*

PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Immunity for Statements Made by Criminal Defendants During Voluntary Pre-Trial Treatment

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

BJA Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force, Laurie Louise Sale, (360) 584-3227, LaurieLouise.Sale@courts.wa.gov

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

This proposal comes out of the BJA's Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force and its Legal Authority Workgroup.

The Legal Authority Workgroup analyzed perceived barriers to greater use of alternatives to incarceration. The work group identified a barrier to pre-trial release as being a lack of early engagement by defendants pre-trial in mental health treatment and substance use disorder treatment. Early engagement in such treatment has the potential to stabilize individuals and mitigate risks of failure to appear and threats to public safety. However, judicial officers do not have legal authority to order defendants' participation in treatment pre-trial. To incentivize and increase voluntary participation in treatment pre-trial, the work group has proposed legislation providing for use and derivative use immunity for statements made by defendants during voluntary, pre-trial treatment. The intention is that this additional protection of statements made in treatment not being used against defendants will encourage defendants to engage in treatment pre-trial to the mutual benefit of the defendant, the State, and the public.

Summary/Request Justification

Summarize the request and the need for it.

See above regarding the rationale behind the request.

The BJA Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force sees lack of pre-trial engagement in mental health and substance use disorder treatment as a potential barrier to pre-trial release. However, judicial officers do not have legal authority to order defendants' participation in treatment pre-trial. This legislation would encourage defendants to voluntarily engage in mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment pre-trial, to the mutual benefit of the defendant, the State, and the public. By increasing voluntary participation in treatment pre-trial, the intention is that defendants would be less likely to be held in custody pre-trial, reducing negative impacts on defendants, their families, and the community, as well as reducing the cost of pre-trial incarceration. At the same time, there is no "downside" to the immunity provided, as the State would be in the same position under this proposal – i.e., not entitled to use statements made by defendants in treatment pre-trial – as if a defendant did not engage in any treatment pre-trial.

The proposed legislation is not intended to and does not modify any existing limitations provided by Washington law on judicial officers' authority to order evaluations or treatment pre-trial. The proposed legislation also is not intended to and does not modify judicial officers' authority to order conditions of release or modify conditions of release pursuant to existing court rules and statutes.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

We do not have a specific proposal as to where in the RCWs this provision would go, but suggest that Title 10, Criminal Procedure, is the correct starting place. It could be added to Ch. 10.01 RCW – General Provisions or Ch. 10.16 – Preliminary Hearings. Contact: Kathryn C. Loring, kathrynL@sanjuancountywa.gov

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

This proposal applies to all trial courts.

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

There is no known fiscal impact; however, this proposal would be expected to have the incidental effect of reducing the cost of jail/incarceration pre-trial.

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

N/A

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

The BJA Task Force would help to develop and coordinate advocacy campaign materials. There has been no outreach to legislators. Talking points would include speaking to public safety concerns, which have been the focus of recent proposed legislation.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

The Task Force sent a prior version of this proposal to legislative committees/leadership in the following associations in 2024: SCJA, DMCJA, WAPA, OPD, WDA, and the MJC. We received comments from the SCJA, OPD, WDA, and WCDL that were generally, but not exclusively, favorable to the intent and main points of the proposal. The work group modified the proposal to address concerns raised by those who commented and to streamline the proposal overall. Ultimately, we did not submit the proposed legislation to the BJA in 2024 because the work group could not cohesively meet to discuss and respond to the feedback we received in the timeline that we received it.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why.

We understand that WAPA will oppose any version of the proposal based on their perspective that only the Prosecutor/Executive Branch has the authority to grant immunity. If WAPA chose not to outright oppose any version of this proposal, they would likely want it modified to expand the categories of charges that it would not apply to (i.e., make the legislation more restrictive).

Proposed Immunity Legislation – Voluntary Treatment

The language below is a proposal for legislation to provide immunity when an individual agrees to attend voluntary substance use disorder or mental health treatment pre-trial.

Please send comments to LaurieLouise.Sale@courts.wa.gov

(1) PURPOSE

The Legislature recognizes the importance of substance use disorder and mental health treatment in addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior and therefore mitigating against harms associated with further criminal law or court order violations while a case is pending. To encourage early intervention and stabilization, as well as honesty from individuals voluntarily seeking treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues related to pending criminal charges, a legislative grant of immunity equivalent to the Fifth Amendment is necessary. This immunity ensures that information shared with treatment providers will not be used against the individual in court proceedings. By granting both use and derivative use immunity, individuals can seek treatment pre-trial without fear of legal repercussions, promoting stabilization, rehabilitation and increasing community safety and reducing recidivism.

This legislation is not intended to and does not immunize actions or statements made during treatment that would qualify as a crime, which inherently are not done for the purpose of treatment.

(2) IMMUNITY

- a) In accordance with the purpose of this statute, any individual in a pending criminal case who voluntarily agrees to a substance use disorder or mental health evaluation and/or agrees to participate in treatment as a condition of release or for purposes of a court considering their release (“Individual”) shall have a grant of combined use and derivative use immunity unless otherwise excluded in this statute for all statements made by any method in the course of and for the purpose of the voluntary evaluation and/or treatment, including but not limited to those made to any staff or consultant of the treatment provider/facility, those made during group and individual therapies, and those made in any court hearing related to this treatment program or process (“Statements”).
- b) Statements made by the Individual shall not be used as substantive evidence of guilt against the Individual.
- c) Any information obtained through the Individual’s voluntary treatment program shall not be used as substantive evidence of guilt against the Individual in the pending or any future criminal proceedings, or in any pending or future civil proceedings.
- d) Furthermore, the State or City Prosecutors shall not charge the Individual for any crimes that were disclosed by the Individual during evaluation or treatment or were discovered from any investigation stemming solely from the information provided by the Individual during evaluation or treatment.

- e) This statute does not apply to individuals charged with:
 - i. A serious violent felony as defined by RCW 9.94A.030.
 - ii. A most serious offense as defined by RCW 9.94A.030, with the exception of assault in the second degree based on allegations of domestic violence.
 - iii. A sex offense as defined by RCW 9.94A.030.



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

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Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

No.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

Yes.

Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

Yes. King County Superior Court is finalizing its consideration of this proposal. The proposal was presented to the court's local Jury Committee July 9, 2025 and will be presented to the court's Executive Committee August 5, 2025. The proposal is being submitted now to meet the July 18, 2025 deadline and Judge Keenan will update the BJA following the August 5 Executive Committee meeting.

¹ The state legislature establishes and amends the state's budgets and statutes. Various court associations, jurisdictions, and entities participate independently in Washington's legislative processes. Sometimes, a court entity would like the support of the BJA for a particular proposal. The BJA has two separate processes for developing and reviewing proposals and submitting them to the legislature: one for budget proposals (i.e., "decision packages") and one for bill drafts (i.e., changes to the Revised Code of Washington).

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

No.

~~PART I — Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW~~

Judicial District

~~Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.~~

Contact Person

~~Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.~~

~~Request Background—What precipitated the request?~~

~~Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s). _____~~

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

~~How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.~~

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

~~Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.~~

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

An act relating to juror mental healthcare.

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

King County Superior Court. (Pending consideration at the court's August 5, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.)
David Keenan. 206-477-1486. david.keenan@kingcounty.gov

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

Please see attached white paper titled *Traumatized Jurors Need Mental Health Support*, Appendix 1, excerpted below:

Jury selection and jury trials can traumatize jurors released before trial and those seated for trial, and many of these jurors could benefit from professional mental health support. Some prospective jurors are so traumatized in cases such as those involving allegations of sex crimes and domestic violence that they ask to be excused or are removed by lawyers concerned about juror bias. Others sit through trials with tales of traumatic events and graphic evidence. These prospective and trial jurors might receive no mental health support or resources despite how traumatic serving as a juror or the prospect of serving as a juror might be. At a minimum, jurors should have access to materials and a resource line to seek support when they are traumatized during jury selection or during trial. Providing juror mental health support furthers the judicial branch's accessibility goal, helping ensure that courts are accessible to jurors who, by virtue of their service in traumatizing cases, need mental healthcare.

Summary/Request Justification

Summarize the request and the need for it.

The BJA should consider proposing a statute in the same or similar form to the attached draft, Appendix 2, that provides for up to 10 hours of mental healthcare for jurors irrespective of whether they are empaneled for trial. The proposed statute is modeled in part on statutes in the only two states currently offering such care---Alaska and Texas; those statutes are attached at Appendix 3.

In the alternative, the BJA should consider proposing a juror mental health support model pilot program at two sites at a cost of \$180,000. Appendix 4. This figure is derived from information provided by way of example only from the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

RCW ch. 2.36. Please see attached draft bill at Appendix 2.

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

The proposal would impact jury trial courts, i.e., courts of limited jurisdiction and superior court.

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

There will be costs to implement the proposed statute, Appendix 2, statewide. The example cost figures in the attached white paper, Appendix 1, are based on an example of 300 jurors per year in King County and provide three options from as basic as a resource telephone line and outreach materials to robust therapeutic support. Costs would vary by jurisdiction and would be ongoing.

By contrast, the cost of just the juror mental health support model pilot program, Appendix 4, would be one-time.

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

No funding secured.

The statewide statute, Appendix 2, could be funded from the state's general fund, from local jurisdictions, or a combination of the two.

In the alternative, the juror mental health support model pilot program could be funded from the state's general fund or the state court budget.

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Judge Keenan raised the general idea of juror mental healthcare with Rep. Lauren Davis (32nd) and Sen. Tina Orwall (33d) at a summit on crime survivors on June 13, 2025. Both expressed interest in sponsoring legislation though Judge Keenan did not provide further details at the time. Rep. Davis might be a good fit to sponsor in the House given her interest in mental health and gender violence.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

The proposed statute and pilot program would apply to all jurors, though as described in the attached white paper, Appendix 1, initial research shows a disproportionate impact on women. Judge Keenan presented on this topic to the Gender and Justice Commission's Domestic & Sexual Violence Committee and relatedly met with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center and the Sexual Violence Law Center. All seemed supportive.

The proposed statute would impact jury trial courts. The King County Superior Court Jury Committee is generally supportive. It would be important to consider the impact on rural courts and any court (most) without significant existing jury services staff.

Another important community to consult for input and support would be those involved in mental health, e.g., local chapters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why.

Judge Keenan is not aware of any opposition. Cost could be one concern, particularly if the statute is not funded at all from the state's general fund and instead is left to local jurisdictions.

Appendix 1

Traumatized Jurors Need Mental Health Support

contact

Judge David Keenan
Chief Judge
Maleng Regional Justice Center
King County Superior Court

david.keenan@kingcounty.gov
206 477 1486

Introduction¹

Jury selection and jury trials can traumatize jurors released before trial and those seated for trial, and many of these jurors could benefit from professional mental health support. Some prospective jurors are so traumatized in cases such as those involving allegations of sex crimes and domestic violence that they ask to be excused or are removed by lawyers concerned about juror bias. Others sit through trials with tales of traumatic events and graphic evidence. These prospective and trial jurors might receive no mental health support or resources despite how traumatic serving as a juror or the prospect of serving as a juror might be. At a minimum, jurors should have access to materials and a resource line to seek support when they are traumatized during jury selection or during trial.

In 2020, the King County Superior Court began conducting most jury selection remotely over Zoom. Part of the remote jury selection process involves an electronic questionnaire sent to prospective jurors in every case. Often, these questionnaires include questions about prospective jurors' experiences with the subject matter of a given case, as well as the option to explain why serving as a juror would present an undue hardship. Below are some juror hardship responses:

"I do not think that being put in a situation where I could be triggered or flashback to my own personal abuse I suffered would leave me unbiased to the situation and leave me able to appropriately serve on this jury. My mental health and PTSD of my own abuse will leave me unable to do so if I am selected to serve on this jury."²

¹ Revised June 1, 2025.

² Female prospective juror in trial where the charges were Rape in the First Degree Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Violation of a Court Order, and Unlawful Imprisonment Domestic Violence.

"I was a victim of domestic violence. . . . I believe that experiencing a domestic violence case will be difficult for me. Hearing and analyzing recounts of domestic violence will be very difficult for me as well."³

"The accusations against the defendant, involving sexual abuse, are disturbing to me. I am concerned that being asked to consider the evidence in this trial could harm my mental health. . . . I have not been exposed to such traumatic experiences before and I'm concerned that this will harm my mental health."⁴

"Having two young children myself, I am sick to my stomach even thinking about hearing details of this case or what this child(ren) have had to endure. It would not be good for my mental health and anxiety and therefore be an extreme hardship for my family."⁵

Though a variety of charges in criminal jury trials and even civil jury trial claims might traumatize prospective and empaneled jurors, data gathered so far focuses on criminal jury trials with sex crime charges, domestic violence charges, or both. In 2024, approximately 44 percent of all King County Superior Court criminal jury trials included these allegations: (1) 27 jury trials with sex crimes charged; (2) 36 jury trials with domestic violence charges; and (3) 14 trials with both types of charges.⁶ Statewide, in 2024 there were a combined 307 Superior Court jury trials with sex crime, domestic violence, or both charges.⁷

Jury Selection and Trial Sometimes Traumatizes Jurors

Criminal jury trials often involve allegations that a defendant traumatized a victim and those allegations can secondarily traumatize others in the courtroom, including jurors. What little research exists in this area supports this conclusion. Noting that "criminal lawyers scored significantly higher on measures of vicarious trauma and depression when compared to non-criminal lawyers," authors of a review in the *Journal of Criminal Justice* looking at eighteen studies added that "it stands to reason that jurors may also be vicariously traumatized and develop secondary traumatic stress symptoms following certain criminal trials."⁸ Importantly, the authors' review showed that "[j]urors who sat on traumatic trials were 6 times more likely to meet criteria for depression during the trial" and "trials involving violent crimes against the person . . . were significantly more associated with traumatic-stress symptoms."⁹ As others have noted, some "types of evidence can have an even more profound effect on jurors who

³ Female prospective juror in trial where the charges were Domestic Violence Felony Violation of a Court Order and Harassment Domestic Violence.

⁴ Female prospective juror in trial where the charges were Human Trafficking, Rape of a Child, and Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor.

⁵ Female prospective juror in trial where the charges were Human Trafficking, Rape of a Child, and Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor.

⁶ *2024 Criminal Jury Trials with Sex Crime and DV Information*, King Cnty. Super. Ct., last updated Mar. 13, 2025

⁷ *Sex Offenses and DV Crimes*, Admin. Office of the Cts., last updated Mar. 20, 2025.

⁸ Alain Brunet et al., *Prevalence & Severity of Trauma- and Stressor-Related Symptoms Among Jurors: A Review*, 47 J. of Crim. Just. 51, 53 (2016) (citations omitted).

⁹ *Id.* 57 (citation omitted).

have previously experienced any kind of similar trauma," including, for example, "[a]buse survivors."¹⁰ Given that criminal law practitioners evidence vicarious trauma, jurors in that very same courtroom may similarly suffer and show symptoms post-trial.

As to what those symptoms look like, the Journal of Criminal Justice authors found in their review that "there is increasing evidence that jury duty can lead to clinically important psychological symptoms consistent with PTSD, such as intrusive memories, nightmares, avoidance, . . . hyperarousal, and depression."¹¹ Indeed, "stories of sobbing, fainting, vomiting and panic attacks are not uncommon."¹² Criminal jury trials are sometimes traumatic and that trauma can show up in jurors with serious symptoms.

Jury Selection and Trial Can be More Traumatic for Women

Criminal trials can traumatize and that trauma can be worse for women. Authors in the Journal of Criminal Justice review noted that "[t]rauma-related symptoms were found in as many as 50% of jurors," and further that "[f]emale gender and history of prior trauma was associated with post-trial pathology."¹³ Moreover, the review revealed that "gender and prior traumatic experiences may be a risk factor for more severe symptoms of traumatic stress," and that "women consistently demonstrated more severe symptomatology than men."¹⁴ Significantly, the authors noted that at least one study found that "women sitting on a trial that was relevant to a prior traumatic experience scored significantly higher . . . than men with and without prior trauma" on a test that measures post-traumatic stress.¹⁵ Finally, the authors concluded, "women, especially those faced with a case that is relevant to prior trauma, are at particular risk for persistent posttraumatic symptoms."¹⁶ Criminal jury trials can be more traumatic for women jurors, especially where the trial involves traumatic allegations consistent with a juror's past trauma.¹⁷

Juror Mental Healthcare Can Help

Judge-led measures to address juror trauma, while well-intentioned, are probably not effective. The Journal of Criminal Justice reviewers noted that judges in some jurisdictions have tried debriefing jurors post-trial. However, "[r]esearch examining the efficacy of jury

¹⁰ Meredith Claunch, *A Disturbing Verdict: The Need for a More Proactive Approach to Jury Trauma*, 47 Law & Psychol. Rev. 161, 169 (2023) (citation omitted).

¹¹ Brunet, *supra* note 8, at 58 (citations omitted).

¹² Claunch, *supra* note 10, at 168 (citations omitted).

¹³ Brunet, *supra* note 8, at 58 (citations omitted).

¹⁴ *Id.* at 58 (citation omitted); see also Claunch, *supra* note 10, at 170 (noting that "female jurors consistently demonstrated more severe symptoms than men during trial and posttrial") (citations omitted).

¹⁵ Brunet, *supra* note 8, at 58 (citations omitted).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Relatedly, in addition to the trauma jury selection may cause women with personal experience with gender violence, such trauma may result in their disproportionate exclusion from juries. Though there is no direct research in Washington, "[a]necdotally, Washington litigators have reported disproportionate exclusion of women through peremptory challenges in cases involving domestic violence." Judge Rebecca Glasgow et al., *Gender & Barriers to Jury Service*, in *2021: How Gender & Race Affect Justice Now* 148 (2021).

debriefing lead by the trial judge consistently reveal[ed] no statistical difference in the stress level reported by jurors debriefed and those who were not debriefed.”¹⁸ Instead, “[m]any experts suggest that debriefing sessions should be led exclusively by mental health professionals” and further that “debriefing alone may be insufficient to reduce levels of pathology among jurors.”¹⁹ Unfortunately, “[t]aking care of jurors after their job is done is not often seen as a major priority in most jurisdictions.”²⁰ Moreover, excused prospective jurors need support in addition to those who sit for trial. As one author noted, “[t]he *voir dire* process often falls short when it comes to addressing mental health concerns of jurors and preparing them for trial.”²¹ Given the limitations of judge-facilitated debriefing in traumatic trials, involving mental health professionals could help.²²

At least two states have recognized the need for juror mental healthcare. Alaska provides that a trial judge may offer up to 10 hours of “post-trial psychological counseling, without charge, to a juror . . . in a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence testimony.”²³ Similarly, Texas allows counties to approve programs offering up to 10 hours of “posttrial psychological counseling” for jurors in trials “involving graphic evidence or testimony.”²⁴ These helpful statutes have some limitations. Notably, neither statute covers excused prospective jurors, e.g., jurors who were excused for hardship or cause on account of their own trauma and its connection to the trial’s subject matter. In addition, at least in the case of the Alaska statute, the trial judge decides whether the juror qualifies, and only as to trials involving a specific list of crimes, rather than keying counseling to the juror’s needs, irrespective of the trial subject matter. Still, both Alaska and Texas offer this important benefit of actual mental healthcare for traumatized jurors and Washington could do the same.

Washington stakeholders could propose amending RCW Chapter 2.36 concerning juries to add a section mandating mental health support for jurors. At a minimum, at least basic resources (e.g., a flyer and phone line) should be available to jurors in criminal cases. A more comprehensive statute would provide resources to jurors in superior and courts of limited jurisdiction in criminal and civil cases, including written materials, a phone line, and actual counseling. The statute could provide that jurisdictions can contract with local providers for such mental health support, though there might be many places in the state where those resources are scarce or nonexistent. At least for the materials and a phone line, stakeholders might consider statewide contracts for a few providers to serve multiple jurisdictions.

As an alternative to a statute, stakeholders might consider a 2026 budget request for the Administrative Office of the Courts to administer a one-year pilot program in, ideally, at least

¹⁸ Brunet, *supra* note 8, at 59 (citations omitted).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Claunch, *supra* note 10, at 174 (citations omitted).

²¹ Claunch, *supra* note 10, at 172.

²² For a time, King County Superior Court worked with Sue Covey, MSW, concerning juror debriefing.

²³ Alaska Stat. § 12.45.018 (2024).

²⁴ Tex. Code of Crim. Proc. Art. 56A.205.

one Western Washington and one Eastern Washington jurisdiction, with at least written materials and a phone line.

As an example of what these services might look like, the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center ("KSARC") could provide juror mental health support, with materials, a 24-hour resource line, client care specialist, therapy, or just one or some combination of these. KSARC projects the yearly costs of these pilot options below:²⁵

Option	Details	Budget
1	24-Hour Resource Line response for approximately 300 jurors; 1 hour call Outreach Materials to include design, translation and print	\$30,000
2	24-Hour Resource Line response for approximately 300 jurors Outreach Materials to include design, translation and print Client Care Specialist: 1-2 hours of additional supportive counseling, information and referral for approximately 200 jurors provided by a Client Care Specialist	\$90,000
3	24-Hour Resource Line Response for approximately 300 jurors Outreach Materials Design, translation and print Client Care Specialist 1-2 hours of additional supportive counseling, information and referral provided by a Client Care Specialist Therapeutic support by licensed mental health professional Clinical assessment: 1-2 hours (100 jurors) Brief clinical intervention: 3 hours (50 jurors) Intensive evidence-based treatment: 10 hours (50 jurors)	\$210,000

Conclusion

Jury selection and trial can traumatize jurors. Especially when jurors have personal experience with the trial's subject matter, such as sexual assault or domestic violence, the symptoms can be severe. The outcomes are worse for women. Only two states enshrine juror counseling in law, ad hoc judge-led debriefing may be ineffective, and few other resources exist. Professional mental healthcare for dismissed prospective jurors and trial jurors can help. Given the seriousness and prevalence of juror trauma, courts should consider providing no-cost, low-barrier professional mental health support to jurors.

²⁵ This was not in response to a request for proposal to the King County Superior Court; rather, KSARC produced this in response to a query as to what juror mental healthcare generally might look like and cost based on King County's trial volume.

Appendix 2

SENATE/HOUSE Bill XXXX

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By

AN ACT Relating to juror mental healthcare; adding a new section to chapter 2.36 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.36 RCW to read as follows:

(a) A superior court or court of limited jurisdiction may offer up to 10 hours of mental health counseling to a juror who participates in the jury selection process, irrespective of whether the juror serves at trial, in a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional subject-matter, evidence, or testimony, or at the discretion of the superior court or court of limited jurisdiction. For purposes of this subsection, "mental health counseling" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 18.225.110(9).

(b) Mental health counseling under subsection (a) (i) must occur not later than 180 days after the juror is released; and (ii) may be provided by a superior court or court of limited jurisdiction through a licensed mental health counselor, mental health counselor associate, licensed advanced social worker, independent clinical social worker, psychiatrist, or psychologist, under contract to the superior court, court of limited jurisdiction, or Administrative Office of the Courts.

--- END ---

Appendix 3

West's Alaska Statutes Annotated
Title 12. Code of Criminal Procedure
Chapter 45. Trial, Evidence, Compromise (Refs & Annos)
Article 1. Trial Jury

AS § 12.45.018

§ 12.45.018. Juror counseling following graphic evidence or testimony

Currentness

(a) The trial judge may offer not more than 10 hours of post-trial psychological counseling, without charge, to a juror or an alternate juror who serves on a trial jury in a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence or testimony.

(b) The counseling offered under (a) of this section applies only to a juror or alternate juror who serves on a trial jury for a trial involving the following offenses:

- (1) murder under [AS 11.41.100](#) and [11.41.110](#);
- (2) manslaughter under [AS 11.41.120](#);
- (3) criminally negligent homicide under [AS 11.41.130](#);
- (4) felonious assault under [AS 11.41.200--11.41.220](#);
- (5) a sexual offense under [AS 11.41.410--11.41.460](#).

(c) The counseling offered under (a) of this section

- (1) must occur not later than 180 days after the jury is dismissed;
- (2) may be provided by the court system, by a state agency, or by contract; and
- (3) may be individual or group counseling.

Credits

Added by [SLA 2010, ch. 111, § 1](#), eff. Sept. 26, 2010.

AS § 12.45.018, AK ST § 12.45.018

Current with amendments received through chapter 61, Executive Orders 125, 133 to 135, Ballot Measure 1 of the 2024 Second Regular Session of the 33rd Legislature. Some sections may be more current than others.

End of Document

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Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated
Code of Criminal Procedure (Refs & Annos)
Title 1. Code of Criminal Procedure
Miscellaneous Proceedings
Chapter 56A. Rights of Crime Victims (Refs & Annos)
Subchapter E. Victim Assistance Coordinator; Crime Victim Liaison

Vernon's Ann. Texas C.C.P. Art. 56A.205
Formerly cited as Vernon's Ann. Texas C.C.P. art. 56.04(f)

Art. 56A.205. Psychological Counseling for Certain Jurors

[Currentness](#)

(a) A commissioners court may approve a program in which a crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of post-investigation or posttrial psychological counseling for a person who:

(1) serves as a grand juror, alternate grand juror, juror, or alternate juror in a grand jury investigation or criminal trial involving graphic evidence or testimony; and

(2) requests the counseling not later than the 180th day after the date on which the grand jury or jury is dismissed.

(b) The crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in providing similar services to victims.

Credits

Added by [Acts 2019, 86th Leg., ch. 469 \(H.B. 4173\), § 1.05, eff. Jan. 1, 2021](#).

Vernon's Ann. Texas C. C. P. Art. 56A.205, TX CRIM PRO Art. 56A.205

Current through the end of the 2023 Regular, Second, Third and Fourth Called Sessions of the 88th Legislature, and the Nov. 7, 2023 general election.

Appendix 4

(XX) \$180,000.00 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 is provided solely for the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop a juror mental health support model pilot program. The juror mental health support model pilot program must include the establishment of a program to provide mental health counseling to a juror who participates in the jury selection process, irrespective of whether the juror serves at trial, in a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional subject-matter, evidence, or testimony, or at the discretion of the superior court or court of limited jurisdiction.

(a) The pilot program must include two sites: a site in a superior court and a site in a court of limited jurisdiction. One pilot program site must be located in a jurisdiction east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and the other located in a jurisdiction west of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

(b) Mental health counseling (i) must occur not later than 180 days after the juror is released; and (ii) must be provided by a superior court or court of limited jurisdiction under the pilot program through a licensed mental health counselor, mental health counselor associate, licensed advanced social worker, independent clinical social worker, psychiatrist, or psychologist, under contract to the superior court, court of limited jurisdiction, or Administrative Office of the Courts.

(c) In developing the pilot program, the Administrative Office of the Courts must consult local government and other impacted stakeholders as identified by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

(d) No court may be required by the Administrative Office of the Courts to participate in the pilot program.

(e) The pilot program ends June 1, 2027. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit a report to the legislature detailing the work of the pilot program, which must include recommendations, if any, for continuation, modification, or

expansion of the pilot program to other regions of the state, no later than June 30, 2027.



Board for Judicial Administration Legislative Committee – *Legislation Request Form*

Please submit completed forms and supporting documentation/drafts to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted by July 18.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

This form is **only** used when: 1) a proposal requires statutory amendment (i.e., changes to language in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)); **and** 2) the judicial branch proponent of the proposal wishes to request support and action for it from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA).

Please consider these questions to guide you to the correct process.¹ If you need assistance with the form or have questions, contact Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov.

Question 1: Is your proposal *exclusively* a fiscal request (i.e., a request for state funding for the judiciary or a new or expanded judicial program, where no legislation other than a state budgetary appropriation is required)?

- *If no, please proceed to Question 2.*
- *If yes, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

Please visit https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho/?fa=atc_aocwho.display&fileID=msd/budgetDevelopment for information about the Washington Courts budget submittal process. The budget submittal process is administered by Mr. Christopher Stanley and involves review of proposals and documentation by the BJA and the Supreme Court.

Question 2: Does your proposal require new or amended statutory language (i.e., changes to the RCW)?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, convening a task force or work group, including invitations for legislators to participate, does not require legislation.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 3.*

¹ The state legislature establishes and amends the state's budgets and statutes. Various court associations, jurisdictions, and entities participate independently in Washington's legislative processes. Sometimes, a court entity would like the support of the BJA for a particular proposal. The BJA has two separate processes for developing and reviewing proposals and submitting them to the legislature: one for budget proposals (i.e., "decision packages") and one for bill drafts (i.e., changes to the Revised Code of Washington).

Question 3: Is your local court, association, or judicial entity asking the BJA to support your proposal by working with legislator(s) to sponsor it as BJA's request?

- *If no, STOP. You DO NOT need to complete this form.*

You may wish to pursue the proposal in discussion with judicial branch committees, associations, commissions, and/or directly with stakeholders and legislators. For example, if a particular court level association wishes to pursue legislation at its own request, then sharing information about it with the BJA Legislative Committee is appreciated, but obtaining BJA support using this form is not necessary.

- *If yes, please proceed to Question 4.*

Question 4: Is the proposal to request an additional judge position within a specific judicial district in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW?

- *If yes, please complete PART I only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART II of this form.*
- *If no, please complete PART II only of this form, and submit the completed form and the required supporting documentation to Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov by July 18. You may skip PART I of this form.*

PART I – Used to request additional judge positions in chapter 2.08 or 3.34 RCW

Judicial District

Provide judicial district name/count(ies) impacted by request.

Contact Person

Provide requestor contact name, telephone, and email address.

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Explain what prompted the request for an additional judge(s).

Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) Support

How does the JNE support the request? For example, the court currently has 5 judges and 1 commissioner, and the JNE states a workload appropriate for 8 judicial officers.

Local Funding and Supporting Documentation

Detail support for the proposal secured so far. Attach documentation of *approved* local/county budget(s) that include funding for the count(ies)' portion(s) of the judicial salary.

Stakeholder Support or Opposition

Have legislators or their staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies as well as a list of entities that may oppose adding a judicial position(s) with a brief explanation of why, if known.

PART II – Used for all bill draft proposals *other than* additional judge positions**Request Title**

Provide a brief title for the proposal.

Better Policy by Eliminating Barriers for Data Sharing among Washington State Agencies

Requesting Entity (Organization & Contact Person)

Provide organization name, contact person, telephone, and email.

AOC / Administrative Services Division / Washington State Center for Court Research / Carl McCurley,
carl.mccurley@courts.wa.gov

Request Background—What precipitated the request?

Provide a paragraph explaining how and why the proposal was developed. Is the proposal a product or result of a work group, task force, study, ruling, etc.?

In 2019 WSCCR researchers began an exploratory study with Department of Health (DOH) mortality data that showed a correlation between justice system involvement and earlier age at death. In 2023, we attempted to expand this study to confirm and improve our initial work and to gain more insights to suggest opportunities for policies or interventions that could improve the lives of Washingtonians, but learned the DOH had increased the cost of their pre-made mortality files to \$350 per file per year (three files needed per year). This would bring the cost of our study over \$25,000, which has prevented us from doing this work. This proposal is a result of that experience.

Summary/Request Justification

Summarize the request and the need for it.

We are requesting that state agencies reduce fees charged for data sharing with other Washington state agencies to a reasonable level based on the time and effort to query and compile the data.

We believe that charging costs like this unnecessarily prevent state agencies from providing the best possible research to legislators, agency officials, and practitioners to inform policy and practices. Specifically, these costs have prevented us from better understanding likelihood of risks of premature mortality and life outcomes for the justice involved population. However, given the siloing of data among state agencies, it is reasonable to assume that many state agencies would benefit from lower barriers to data sharing in order to answer complex policy questions.

RCW(s) Impacted (please provide potential bill draft language: underlined additions to RCW, strikeouts for deletions, and identify new sections—attach additional sheet, if needed)

Provide RCWs and the requested changes to existing statutes. If requesting a new statute, identify RCW chapter(s) where it should be added. Please provide the contact information for the author(s) of the draft.

I think the easiest place to put this would be in a new section of Chapter 43.17 RCW; perhaps as a subsection to 43.17.110. (proposed language at the end of this form).

Court Level Impact

Summarize the court level impact and identify specific court levels (i.e., CLJ, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court).

This may not directly impact for any court level. However, they will likely see long-term benefits from having better research and information available to them.

Fiscal Impact

If enacted, will there be costs to implement this proposal? Will AOC, courts, local government(s), or other agencies have any fiscal impact as a result? If there is a fiscal impact, is it likely to be one-time or on-going?

No new costs are expected for the AOC. Modest savings could occur. There may be some on-going, agency-level fiscal impacts for other agencies. The result should be fiscally neutral for the state budget, as we are reducing or eliminating fees paid from one agency to another.

Funding Available/Secured

If there is a fiscal impact, please document funding already secured or available to fund the proposal (i.e., grants, local appropriation, etc.). If state funding may be needed, please identify additional revenue that the legislature could generate to apply to the expenditure and include needed adjustments in the bill draft submitted.

N/A

Legislative Strategy Recommendations

Identify potential messages/talking points to legislators and advocates from within and outside the judicial branch. Have legislators or staff participated in any discussions about the proposal? If known, identify specific legislators that could be champions or allies.

Washington state agency data is, generally, high quality and useful for specific questions. However, questions about policy and practices are often complex and require data from multiple state agencies. When that question comes from the legislature, agencies are willing to make the process simple and low-cost. However, there are several policies and practices that could be improved by multi-agency data sharing without legislative agency. We believe that lowering data-sharing costs like this will allow state agencies to provide the best possible research to legislators, agency officials, and practitioners to inform policy and practices.

Stakeholder Impact

Provide a list of all stakeholders and whether they are likely to support or oppose the proposal. Identify contact information for constituencies outside of the judicial branch who will be positively impacted by the proposal and would be willing to advocate for it.

The stakeholders are all or most state agencies. Their support or opposition is probably based upon how much they are currently charging for data files. Many agencies would, likely, remain neutral on the topic. We suspect that the Department of Health would oppose this measure.

Potential Opposition

Provide a list of organizations or entities that may oppose the legislation and a brief explanation of why.

Agencies that charge high fees to other state agencies for datafiles may be opposed. However, these are often pre-made files that they are required to produce, and each request only requires staff time to upload the files to a file transfer site.

Revised May 2025

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Potential language:

No department or state agency may charge unreasonable fees when providing data or records to another department or state agency. In determining whether a fee is reasonable, a department or state agency may consider:

1. Whether the data or records have already been compiled or digitized
2. The staff time involved in providing the data or records; and
3. System costs in providing the data or records.



BJA Legislative Committee Recommendation for 2026 Legislative Agenda

Judge Rebecca Glasgow
Chair - BJA Legislative Committee
September 12, 2025

Agenda



- 2025 Agency Request Legislation
- Proposals for 2026
- Recommendation

2025 Agency Request Legislation



- **HB 1144**: Additional superior court judge for Skagit county
- **HB 1510**: Including appellate commissioners in the PERS Judicial Benefit Multiplier Program
- **SB 5133**: Adding caregiver status as a mitigating factor

Proposal 1



Title: Technical Fixes (Omnibus Bill)

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

Summary:

- Subsection 1 – Correct error/inconsistency in RCW 9A.48.100(2)
- Subsection 2 – Amend civil infraction statutes (RCW 7.80.070[h], RCW 7.80.050[5], and RCW 7.80.120[3])
- Subsection 3 – Strike RCW 2.56.190
- Subsection 4 – Update implementation date in RCW 7.105.105

Proposal 2



Title: Concerning eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judges and court personnel

Source: BJA Court Security Committee

Summary: This proposal requests amendments to RCW 4.24.680 aligning definitions with other RCWs and providing eligible individuals with the means to request removal of personally identifiable information.

Proposal 3



Title: Concerning enhanced threat assessments and investigation enhancement for Washington Courts

Source: BJA Court Security Committee

Summary: This request amends RCW 2.04.260 to cover all judicial officers within the Supreme Court.

It also adds a section to RCW 2.56 to codify the role of Administrative Office of the Courts Security Consultants in performing similar Threat Assessments and Investigations for courts they serve and ensuring the scope of these duties is defined.

Proposal 4



Title: Additional superior court judge for Yakima County

Source: Yakima County Superior Court

Summary: This proposal is for an additional superior court judicial position for Yakima County—taking them from eight to nine judges in statute.

Proposal 5



Title: Data sharing between the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Source: AOC – Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR)

Summary: This proposal requests data to be shared from the HCA on a monthly or quarterly basis related to the need and utilization of substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment by therapeutic court participants.

Proposals received but not moving forward:



- Immunity for statements made by criminal defendants during voluntary pre-trial treatment
 - Source: BJAs Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force
- Juror mental health services
 - Source: Judge David Keenan & King County Superior Court Executive Committee
- Eliminating barriers to data sharing among Washington state agencies
 - Source: Washington State Center for Court Research

Recommendation



[Proposed] 2026 Legislative Slate:

- **SHB 1144**: Request for an additional superior court judge for Skagit County
- **SHB 1510**: Including appellate commissioners in the PERS Judicial Benefit Multiplier Program
- **SSB 5133**: Concerning caregiver status as a mitigating factor
- **Proposal 1**: Technical fixes
- **Proposal 2**: Concerning eligibility and removal of personally identifiable information (PII) for judicial officers and court personnel
- **Proposal 3**: Concerning enhanced eligibility for threat assessments and investigation enhancement for Washington Courts
- **Proposal 4**: Request for an additional superior court judge in Yakima County
- **Proposal 5**: Data sharing between the HCA and the AOC

Committee: Public Engagement & Education Committee (PEEC)

Nominee: Stephen Feldman, JD, Ph.D.,. CONTACT..

Nominee Address: Feldman Law Consultants, 155 SW 152nd Street, Unit C. Burien, Washington 98166

Nominee Email: stephanfeldman@gmail.com

Nominee Phone: (206) 621-7007

Nominated by: WSBA

Term Begin Date: September 15, 2025

Term End Date: December 31, 2027

Has the nominee served on the PTC/PEEC Committee in the past? No

If yes, please indicate how many terms and dates:

Additional information you would like the BJA to be aware of regarding the nominee:

When applying to the WSBA, Mr. Feldman wrote, in part, that:

"I had joined the group of lawyers who showed up on Law Day to reaffirm my lawyer's oath, and was motivated to go out and engage the public, as the speakers suggested, on the value of the law and lawyers in our society, but I was unsure about how to take action. . . "

Given Mr. Feldman's commitment to engaging with and educating the public, and his experience and training in addition to being a lawyer (he is also a licensed psychologist), and has taught law at several law schools including a Teaching Fellowship at Harvard (1970 – 1972), we think he would be an excellent addition to PEEC, and so ask for the BJA to approve his nomination.

LANGUAGE ACCESS AND INTERPRETER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

FY 2025



Period covered: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Introduction

The Language Access and Interpreter Reimbursement Program (LAIRP) is dedicated to enhancing language access in courts by providing reimbursement for interpreter services and related costs. Fiscal Year 2025 was another year of growth with additional **14 new courts** joining the program. Throughout the year, the program allocated **\$3.87 million** in reimbursement funding to our participating courts.

Financial Overview

\$10.12M

Total Court Cost

\$4.7M

Approved Claims

50.4k

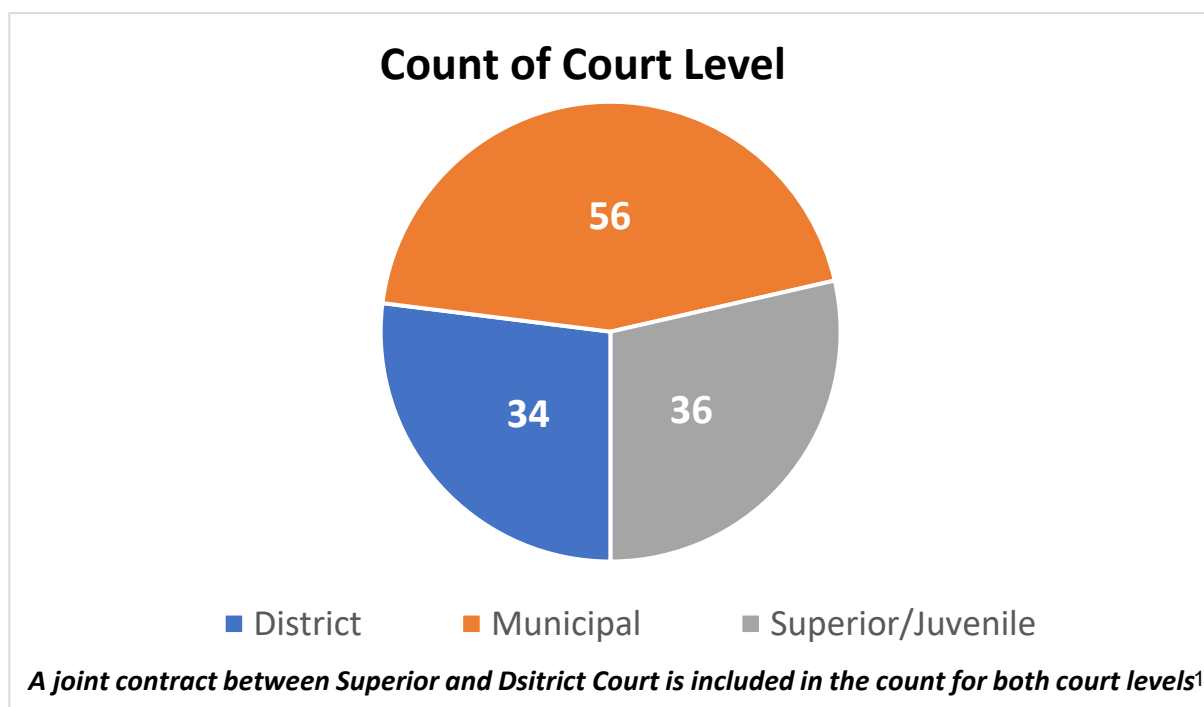
Interpreter Events

Funding Allocation and Usage

Participant Demographic

LAIRP allocated funding across **125 contracts** in FY 2025, expanding the program's support to **34 counties** in WA State. The chart below shows the distribution of court level participation by contract.

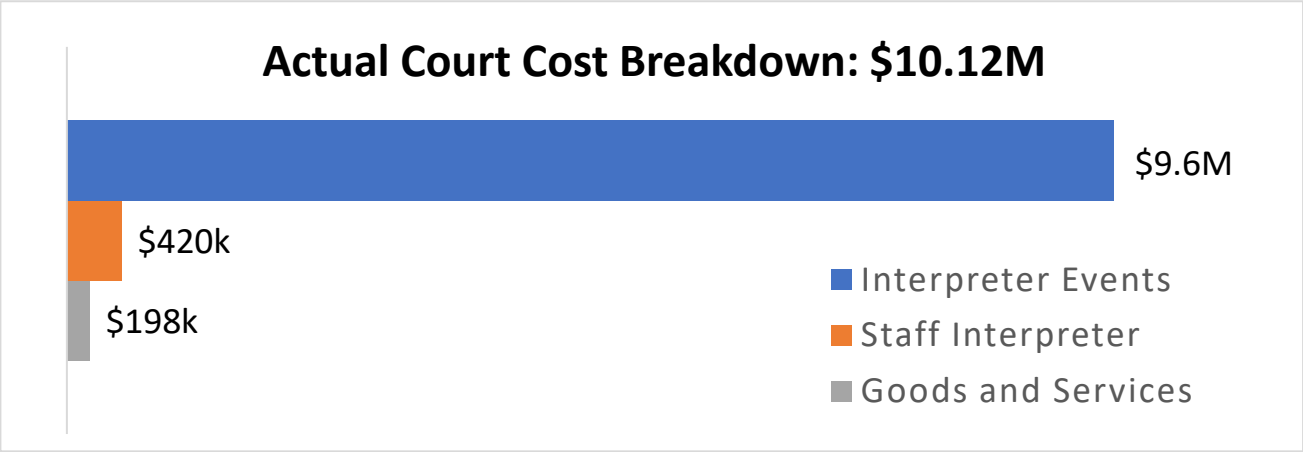
Some courts had joint contracts, while a few Juvenile courts participated separately from their Superior court counterparts.



Court Cost by Category

LAIRP offered reimbursement in three categories: Interpreter Events, Staff Interpreter, and Goods and Services. Qualifying **Interpreter Events** and **Staff Interpreter** costs were reimbursed at **50%**, while approved **Goods and Services** were **fully reimbursed**.

While interpreter events should be prioritized, courts can strategically plan expenditures across all three categories to maximize the use of their allocated budget.



LAIRP Languages

Courts provided interpreter services for **123 languages** in FY 2025: 47 ‘credentialed’ (languages with one or more court credentialed interpreters in WA) and 76 ‘non-credentialed’ (languages that do not have any court credentialed interpreters). Two new languages; **Nepali and Hmong**, are now added to the list of 'credentialed' languages as we welcome newly credentialed interpreters in these languages.

Accurate data reporting of language and interpreter’s credential status is crucial as these factors together determine the reimbursement eligibility.

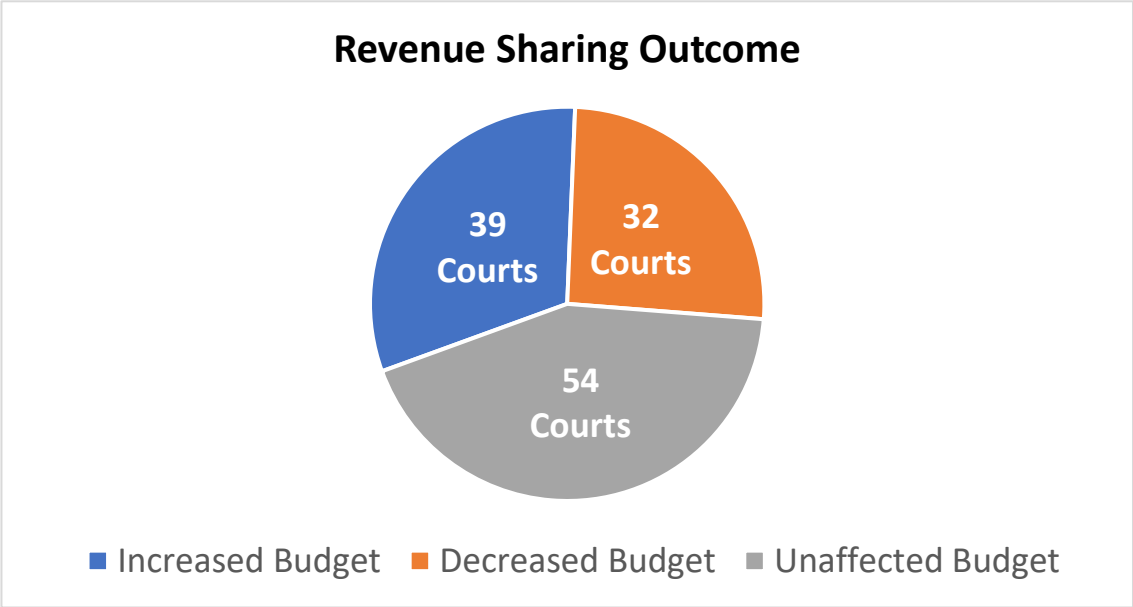
Certified Languages	Registered languages	
Arabic	Albanian	Oromo
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	Amharic	Polish
Cantonese	Armenian	Portuguese*
French	Burmese	Punjabi
Khmer (Cambodian)	Czech	Romanian
Korean,	Dari	Samoan
Laotian	Dutch	Somali
Mandarin	Farsi	Sawahili
Portuguese*	German	Tagalog*
Russian	Greek	Thai
Spanish,	Haitian	Tigrinya
Tagalog*	Creole	Turkish
Vietnamese	Hebrew	Ukrainian
	Hindi	Urdu
	Hmong	Yoruba
	Hungarian	
	Ilocano	
	Japanese	
	Marshallese	
	Nepali	

*Languages that transitioned from registered to certified and there are credentialed interpreters in both languages as a result

Revenue Sharing

To ensure **optimal distribution of program funds**, Revenue Sharing was initiated in April 2025. This resulted in reallocation of the initial budget for some courts in order to maximize utilization of limited program funds and resources. Courts impacted by these changes received a **Notification Letter** in May.

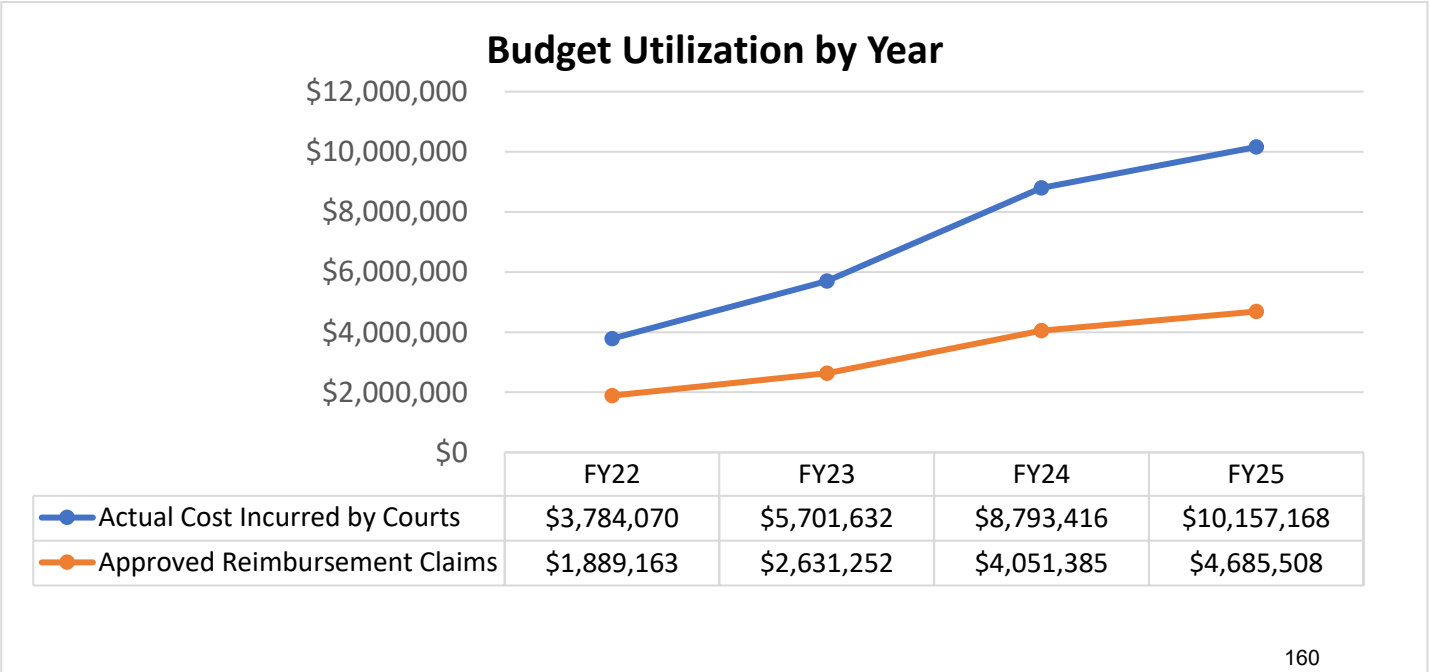
Revenue Sharing is based on court’s approved Q1 and Q2 invoices. Special circumstances that substantially affect court’s projected expenditure may also be considered if communicated in advance.



Court Budget Utilization

The program experienced another year of steady growth with approved claims of more than **\$4.68 million**. This reflects the increase in language access demand and utilization of program’s resources. **88 courts** overspent their budget during this year, demonstrating the program’s impact and growing needs for additional funding.

Courts should continue to submit completed invoices even if they have exceeded the budget limit for the year since the total approved invoices will be used to determine the initial budget allocation for the following year.



Program Highlights

Additional Program Funds

In response to the increasing demand and costs of providing interpreter services and language access, we submitted a budget package to request additional funds in 2025 to sustain the program. Thanks to the **comprehensive and accurate data** provided by our participating courts over the years, we were able to develop a strong, evidence-based proposal. As a result, an additional **\$1 million for the Biennium** was included in the 2025-2027 Conference Budget to support the LAIRP, despite the overall budget cuts this year.

Effective FY 2026, the program will receive an **additional \$500k annually**, which will enhance our capacity to meet the increased funding needs and ensure more efficient allocation of resources across participating courts. We will continue our efforts to pursue avenues for additional funding to better support courts.

Collective and accurate data is the foundation to strengthen our advocacy efforts for sustaining and expanding the LAIRP.

DMCMA Presentation

LAIRP staff presented at the 2025 DMCMA Conference in the session titled **“Elevate and Save: Maximizing Court's Budget with AOC Reimbursement Programs”** which focused on elevating court services through effective use of reimbursement opportunities in AOC. The session was coordinated by LAIRP as a joint presentation with three other AOC reimbursement programs; Therapeutic Courts, PORT Project, and Blake refund. LAIRP's message emphasized the importance of **partnership** with courts and reaffirmed our **ongoing commitment and advocacy efforts** to support the expansion of language access services in courts.

Equity and language access cannot be achieved in silo; they require joint commitment and collaboration from all of us.

Looking Ahead

FY 2026 Announcements

- **10 New Courts** joining in FY 2026
- **Interagency Agreement** via DocuSign during the **first week of September 2025**
- **Revenue Sharing** process in **April 2026** based on approved Q1 and Q2 invoices

LAIRP Application

- **New updates** will be implemented in the FY 2026 Application Portal
- FY 2026 accessible to courts on **September 8, 2025**

LAIRP Webinar

- **When:** **September 8, 2025 @ 12-1pm**
- **Who:** Court Administrators, Interpreter Coordinators, Court Staff
- **Where:** Zoom platform (additional details will be communicated by email)

For questions, comments, or suggestions, contact **Tae Yoon @ tae.yoon@courts.wa.gov**.



BOARD FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: Purpose

The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) shall adopt policies and provide leadership for the administration of justice in Washington courts. Included in, but not limited to, that responsibility is:

1. improving the quality of justice in Washington by fostering excellence in the courts through effective education;
2. developing proactive legislation and advising and recommending positions on legislation of interest;
3. facilitating and managing a process of engagement within the judicial branch to identify priority policy issues and to develop strategies to address those issues;
4. coordinating efforts to achieve adequate, stable and long-term funding of Washington's courts to provide fair and equitable justice throughout the state;
5. reviewing and making recommendations, including prioritization, regarding proposed budget requests routed through the BJA.

ARTICLE II: Membership

The Board for Judicial Administration shall consist of judges from all levels of court and other key stakeholders as outlined in the Court Rules.

ARTICLE III: Terms of Office

The Chief Justice, the Association President Judges, the Washington State Bar Association President and Executive Director, and the Administrator for the Courts shall serve during their tenure. All other members serve four-year terms unless their governing body specifies otherwise and their terms are renewable for one additional four-year term.

ARTICLE IV: Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs in any representative position, the bylaws of the governing group shall determine how the vacancy will be filled.

ARTICLE V: Chairs

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall chair the Board for Judicial Administration in conjunction with a Member chair. The Member chair shall be nominated by the Chief Justice Chair and confirmed by the Board. The member chair shall serve a two-year term. The Member chair position shall be filled alternately between a voting Board member who is a superior court judge and a voting Board member who is either a district or municipal court judge.

ARTICLE VI: Duties of Chairs

The Chief Justice Chair shall be the official spokesperson for the Board. The Chief Justice Chair and Member Co-Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board, performing the duties usually incident to such office. The Chief Justice chair and the Member chair shall nominate for the Board's approval the chairs of all committees. The Member chair shall perform the duties of the Chief Justice chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chief Justice chair.

ARTICLE VII: Committees

1. Standing Committees are identified in BJAR 3(b). Any change to standing committees must be approved by a majority vote.
2. The BJA, by majority vote, can establish ad hoc committees or task forces. Ad hoc committees or task forces will be guided by a BJA approved charter for a duration of 2 years, subject to renewal or revision by a majority of the BJA. The Chief Justice chair and the Member chair shall nominate committee and task force chairs for the Board's approval. Membership on all committees and task forces will reflect representation from all court levels as outlined in their charter. Membership may also include anyone working in the judicial system or anyone from the public.
3. Committees and task forces shall report in writing to the Board for Judicial Administration as appropriate to their charter.
4. The terms of committee and task force members will be determined by their charter.

ARTICLE VIII: Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of Board for Judicial Administration members, and consisting of the co-chairs, a judge from the Court of Appeals selected by and from the Court of Appeals members of the Board, the President Judge of the Superior Court Judges' Association, and the President Judge of the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association, and non-voting members to include one Washington State Bar Association representative selected by the Chief Justice, President-elect judge of the Superior Court Judges' Association, President-elect judge of the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association and the Administrator for the Courts.

It is the purpose of this committee to consider and take action on emergency matters arising between Board meetings, subject to ratification of the Board. During legislative sessions, the Executive Committee is authorized to conduct remote meetings for the purpose of

reviewing legislative positions.

ARTICLE IX: Regular Meetings

There shall be regularly scheduled meetings of the Board for Judicial Administration. A meeting schedule will be approved by the Board annually. Reasonable notice of meetings shall be given to each member. Any Board member may submit items for the meeting agenda.

ARTICLE X: Executive Sessions

Executive sessions may be held upon majority vote to discuss matters deemed confidential. A motion to enter executive session shall set forth the purpose of the executive session, which shall be included in the minutes.

ARTICLE XI: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by any member of the Board. Reasonable notice of special meetings shall be given to each member.

ARTICLE XII: Quorum

Eight voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum provided each court level is represented.

ARTICLE XIII: Voting

Each judicial member of the Board for Judicial Administration shall have one vote. All decisions of the Board shall be made by majority vote of those present and provided there is at least one affirmative vote from each level of court. Remote attendance shall be permitted. A voting member may designate a non-voting BJA member from the same level of court to cast a vote by proxy in their absence.

ARTICLE XIV: Amendments and Repeal of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended or modified at any regular or special meeting of the Board, at which a quorum is present and by majority vote, provided there is at least one affirmative vote from each level of court. No motion or resolution for amendment of bylaws may be considered at the meeting in which they are proposed.

Approved for Circulation--7/27/87
Amended 1/21/00
Amended 9/13/00
Amended 5/17/02
Amended 5/16/03
Amended 10/21/05
Amended 03/16/07
Amended 10/18/19
Amended 10/24/19
Amended 11/18/2022

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Court Rules
Protection Order Forms
Emergency Procedures
eService Center
Pattern Jury Instructions

TRANSLATIONS

中文形式/Chinese
한국어서류/Korean
Русский/Russian
Español/Spanish
Tiếng Việt/Vietnamese

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BJA Goals for 2023-2025

BJA will apply an equity analysis to ensure that committees and activities address racial inequities and promote equal access to justice for everyone.



Courts of the future: BJA will identify and promote innovative court programs, practices, and best practices across the State.

- BJA will share information and activities from the Judicial Leadership Summit, Innovating Justice awards, and other judiciary and court programs/associations.
- BJA will identify, share, and/or develop best practices for judiciary and BJA priorities.



Court wellness: BJA will explore ways to support, partner, and coordinate opportunities to address court, judicial officers, and court personnel education and wellness needs.

- BJA will explore existing opportunities for supporting and training judicial officers in the first 5 years such as mentoring, coaching, and an advanced judicial training program.
- BJA will identify programs and tools to help address overall court and staff wellness and training needs as identified in the Judicial Leadership Summit and subsequent BJA discussions.



Collaboration: BJA will explore and develop ways to collaborate and build relationships with all our justice partners.

- BJA will identify and share critical and emerging issues that impact the judiciary and court operations.
- BJA will utilize task forces and work groups to increase collaborative opportunities.
- BJA will develop a plan to increase court user feedback and involve persons with lived experiences in BJA efforts.



BJA will continue addressing court funding needs, alternatives to incarceration, and remote proceedings.

The **Mission** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to provide leadership and develop policy to enhance the judiciary's ability to serve as an equal, independent, and responsible branch of government.

The **Vision** of the Board for Judicial Administration is to be the voice of the Washington State courts.

	Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Meeting Friday, May 16, 2025 (9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
Meeting Minutes	

BJA Members Present:

Chief Justice Debra Stephens, Chair
Judge Alicia Burton, Member Chair
Judge Tam Bui
Judge Andrea Beall
Judge George Fearing
Judge John Hart
Judge Cindy Larsen
Judge David Mann
Terra Nevitt
Judge Donald Richter
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Michael Scott

Guests Present:

Linnea Anderson
Omar Gamez
Judge Angelle Gerl
Lottie Godina
Norrie Gregoire
Senator Bob Hasegawa
Jessica Humphreys
Judge Carolyn Jewett-Platts
Laurie Mott
Frankie Peters
Mary Rathbone
Sara Robbins
Judge Jim Rogers
Susan Speiker
Justice G. Helen Whitener
Daisy Wong

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff Present:

Nicole Ack
Scott Ahlf
Colby Brewer
Jeanne Englert
Heidi Green
Brittany Gregory
Nicole Grey
Patric Haerle
Lillian Hawkins
Melissa Hernandez
Scott Hillstrom
Yvonne Jones
Penny Larsen
Allison Lee Muller
Joslyn Nelson
Stephanie Oyler
Haily Perkins
Laurie Louise Sale
Christopher Stanley
Caroline Tawes
Lorrie Thompson

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Chief Justice Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. This will be the last business meeting of the board year. The Judicial Leadership Summit will be on June 13, 2025.

Chief Justice Stephens welcomed all regular BJA members, and guest Senator Bob Hasegawa introduced himself. Daisy Wong, Legislative Assistant to Senator Manka Dhingra, attended in the Senator's place.

This will also be the last meeting for Judge Burton in her role as co-chair. Judge Burton thanked the BJA members and said it has been a learning experience. Chief Justice Stephens said it has been a pleasure working with Judge Burton.

Member Responsibilities

Judge Burton referred to the bullet points under Tab 1 in the meeting materials and asked BJA members to review them.

Presentation of Current Court Projects

Pre-trial Services

Yvonne Jones reviewed the history of the Pretrial Services Task Force. The AOC Pretrial Project was funded in 2023 and those funds are now being provided to courts that have created a pretrial strategy. Yvonne Jones reviewed pretrial strategies and the scope of the work.

Norrie Gregoire, Walla Walla County Juvenile Justice Center, discussed the benefits and impacts of the pretrial project funding in Walla Walla County.

Juvenile Justice

Judge Burton presented an overview of the juvenile justice system in Washington. The Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) works closely with the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA), who manage the juvenile courts in Washington. Both the SCJA and the WAJCA operate under shared goal of keeping the public safe and helping youth become successful adults. Their goal is to prevent involvement in the offender side of the juvenile courts. Courts try to be as least restrictive as possible, and avoid detention if possible.

Juvenile Courts face budget reduction, ageing facilities, and overcrowding. Two bills passed by the Legislature this year dealt with juveniles: HB 1815 clarified that the crime of prison riot does not apply to fights in juvenile facilities, and HB 1391 expands use of diversion and removes the ability of a parent to decline engagement in diversion.

There are still discussions on expanding juvenile court jurisdiction to beyond age 18, allowing youthfulness to be considered as mitigating factor, juvenile points reform, and overcrowding.

Accessibility in the Courts

Joslyn Nelson provided an update and background for the Disability Justice Task Force (DJTF). Part of DJTF mission is to identify and address system inequities experienced in court by people with disabilities. The DJTF has conducted a statewide study of audits on courts, looking at accessibility, and interviewing ADA coordinators. They have also sent surveys to court professionals and to courts users with disabilities. They are in the final stages of analyzing the data, and hope to have recommendations by September 10, 2025.

The DJTF has a final draft of guidelines for thoughtful and inclusive language for people with disabilities. The Recommendations Subcommittee is also reviewing GR 33 to see if they may make recommendations on access and accommodations.

The DJTF is also drafting best practices on people with autism in courts, and are in the final stages of drafting best practices on disabilities in the courts. There will be a four-part webinar series from May 20 to June 20, 2025, on criminalization of disabilities.

There will be more information on a September 10, 2025 symposium.

Public Engagement and Court Education

Scott Hillstrom presented an overview of the Court Education Committee (CEC). The purpose of the CEC is to improve, promote coordination, and establish education policy. Scott Hillstrom reviewed some CEC goals and described some of the CEC-sponsored education programs.

The CEC supports a wide range of educational programs that reach all areas of the court system. The CEC strives to improve the quality of justice in Washington, and their work impacts the public we serve.

Nicole Ack shared highlights of the Public Engagement and Education Committee (PEEC). The PEEC collaborates with the public, and has an opportunity to educate and engage the public on topical issues. The PEEC is talking to TVW on updating the *Myths and Misperceptions* video, as well as some other videos, about judges and the Judicial Branch. The PEEC also supports the Mock Trial Program, and will collaborate with the Washington State Bar Association on a similar program for lawyers in the classroom.

Facilitated breakout room discussions

Chief Justice Stephens suggested a discussion on the presentations with the entire group rather than breaking into small groups.

- Senator Hasegawa asked about accessing the justice system, especially for interpretation.
- From a court education perspective, it is important to maintain public trust and confidence. The judicial branch collaborates and coordinates with other entities and programs, commissions.
- There are a lot of conversations about how to request interpreters for court proceedings and no funding for court-mandated courses. We hope to partner with the legislature on the increase in prices for interpreters.
- Some courts are having trouble getting interpreters for trials. There are issues with funding and availability as well as recruiting interpreters. How do we improve that situation?
- Access needs to be broadened to include disabilities, especially if people don't disclose a disability
- The legislative process used remote participation; are there similar challenges in interpretation and accessibility engaging in the legislative process?
- This is a system problem throughout government. It is very challenging to find enough certified interpreters because of funding and insufficient resources. There is not an overall strategic plan. What do we need to fix this?
- Are there plans to update the interpreter testing or provide materials to practice the tests? Interpreter testing staff are focusing on assistance on the skills portion of test and getting out better information.

- What have the participants found to be successful in Juvenile Justice?
- There is a recognition that we need to take into account mitigating qualities.
- There are a lot of programs throughout the state, especially evidence-based programs. Individual alternative choice training, individualized programs where probation counselors act as behavior change coaches for young people. There have been good outcomes for programs around state.
- Judge Burton attended a convention addressing 18—24 year olds and what courts are doing with innovating responses with that age group. Those charged with nonviolent offenses can be provided education and substance abuse treatment to get them back on the right track.
- How can we expand data we have on emerging adult population? It might mean a different way of responding to 18—24 year olds. Data collection and data integrity has improved.
- It would make sense to have a third system besides youth and adults. It would be worth looking into despite large undertaking and expense.
- What are the priorities and areas of focus around juvenile justice? Most conversations are about resentencing.
- The judicial branch has sought and received funding for expansion of Therapeutic Courts. We talk with branch partners. There has been movement around examining juvenile justice. We hear from local courts about their capacity to deal with wave of resentencing in juvenile and *Blake* cases.

BJA Task Forces

Alternatives to Incarceration Task Force

Laurie Louise Sale thanked the BJA for extending the Task Force through the end of the year. The Task Force is continuing to work on deliverables and expect to have a preview summary in December 2025 and a final report in January or February 2026.

Remote Proceedings Workgroup

The Workgroup is finalizing a bench card and working on a final report to the BJA, which should be finished in June. The Task Force will have a presentation with Judge Rogers at the Fall Judicial Conference.

Chief Justice Stephens thanked Judge Gerl and Judge Rogers for their extra work to prioritize sunseting the remaining COVID orders. One order affects authorization of remote administration of oaths for attorneys, and one deals with electronic signatures. Please email Chief Justice Stephens with input or other considerations.

BJA Standing Committees

Budget and Funding Committee (BFC)

Christopher Stanley today emailed BJA members with the 2026 Supplemental Budget Schedule. Packages will be due in June 2025, and the governance process will begin in mid-August 2025. Revenue collection in April is expected to drop. Unemployment is still low, but housing prices are weakening and consumer confidence is dropping.

Christopher Stanley reviewed the 2025—27 budget requests, including programs either not funded or funded at a low rate.

Court Education Committee (CEC)

Scott Hillstrom would like the postponed discussion from the March BJA meeting to be moved to the next BJA meeting.

Legislative Committee

Brittany Gregory reviewed the 2025 Agency Request Legislation. A report was included in the meeting materials.

The next Interbranch Advisory Committee meeting will be June 23, 2025, at the Tukwila Justice Center.

Solicitation forms for 2026 proposals have been sent. It is the responsibility of group leadership to distribute that form. There will be limited time and funding next year, so proposals should be limited to technical changes.

Brittany Gregory is leaving AOC at the end of May. She hopes to work with the BJA members in her new role.

Policy and Action Committee (PAC)

Judge Scott reviewed PAC charter. The Charter and the redlined version were included in the meeting packet. The Charter has been updated to conform more closely to the current work of the PAC. They are creating plans and implementing strategies as opposed to recommending strategies to this board. There was also a title change for the coordinator.

It was moved by Judge Larsen and seconded by Judge Mann to approve the PAC charter amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Judge Helson and LaTricia Kinlow have been nominated for co-chairs of the Workplace Task Force.

It was moved by Chief Justice Stephens and seconded by Judge Beall to approve the co-chairs for the Workplace Antiharassment Task Force. The motion passed unanimously

Court Security Committee

No report.

Minutes Approval

Judge Bui corrected page 3 of the minutes to read "The charter amendments will be discussed again at the May BJA meeting or at a later meeting."

It was moved by Judge fearing and seconded by Judge Larsen to approve the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written with the correction. The amended motion passed with one abstention.

Information Sharing

Chief Justice Stephens: The Minority and Justice Commission Symposium will be held at the Temple of Justice on June 11, 2025. BJA members will receive an invitation, and the symposium will also be streamed live. The symposium will focus on indigenous communities.

The Supreme Court is in oral arguments, focusing on administration and working with courts.

Chief Justice Stephens congratulated the WSBA on the rule of law ambassador program.

Terra Nevitt: She thanked the judges who helped lead or participate in Law Day events. This was meant to be a kickoff for a longer and more intensive program around public civic education, supporting lawyers on the responsibility to educate the public about the rule of law. There was a CLE on May 6, 2025, that was recorded and will be available for viewing. If anyone is interested in receiving emails on the long-term efforts to develop more lawyers, they may email the ambassadors at WSB.org and be added to the mailing list.

Sara Robbins: The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) received funding to set up a new appointed counsel program in partnership with the Department of Social and Health Services for Medicaid residents discharged from certain types of longer-term care facilities. The implementation date will probably be January 2026. OCLA lost all *Blake* funding, and they are trying to figure out what that means for contractors.

Susan Speiker: She thanked AOC leadership and pretrial services staff. On May 13, 2025, Okanogan County, her office, and the sheriffs' office, together with members of the community, put together trauma bags that will go out with core specialists and deputies, located in jail and other various sites. The event was very successful and they would like to do it again in the fall.

Yvonne Jones: On June 9—10, 2025, Pretrial Services is hosting a workshop to bring pilot sites together. There is still room to join. At the event there will be discussions on goal setting for next year, what is happening in other courts, and what is working well. Yvonne Jones will send an invitation.

Judge Burton: The Bench Bar Press will hold virtual court media training May 30, 2025, at a variety of locations. She can send an invitation to anyone who is interested. On June 6, 2025, Judge Burton is representing the BJA on an AI technology panel.

Chief Justice Stephens: This will be the last BJA business meeting until September 12, 2025. The Judicial Leadership Summit on June 13, 2025, will be held in the renovated Temple of Justice meeting space. Please contact Chief Justice Stephens if you need parking accommodations.

Melissa Hernandez: She asked everyone to please RSVP for the Judicial Leadership Summit.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Recap of Motions from the May 16, 2025 Meeting

Motion Summary	Status
To approve the PAC charter amendments.	passed
To approve the co-chairs for the Workplace Antiharassment Task Force.	passed
To approve the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes as written with the correction.	passed

Action Items from the May 16, 2025 Meeting

Action Item	Status
<u>March 21, 2025 BJA Meeting Minutes</u> • Post the minutes online • Send minutes to the Supreme Court for inclusion in the En Banc meeting materials.	done done