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Justice Mary Yu
Supreme Court Rules Committee
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504
Sent via email: supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: Proposed Revisions to JISCR 2, Membership

Dear Justice Yu,

The Access to Justice Board submits this comment regarding the changes in proposed JISC Rule 2 on membership. In brief, all of the members of the JISC are either court insiders or lawyers. There is no one to represent the needs of the substantial self-represented litigant community. Now is the time to remedy this.

The current membership includes fourteen members from the courts and three supposed outsiders: one from the Washington State Bar Association (a lawyer), one from the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (a lawyer), and one from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (even he is a lawyer). There is no true outsider in the list of members. This is a substantial gap. The members of the JISC are not familiar with the user experience of non-legally trained individuals who are trying to figure out access to a non-unified court system. Also, by being comprised of court insiders, the JISC has an innate skew towards the status quo rather than change.

The Access to Justice Board proposes that the membership be expanded by two seats nominated by the Access to Justice Board. Why two? Because by expanding the JISC by just one seat for an Access to Justice representative, that person may feel intimidated by the rest of the insider committee. Therefore, adding two voices to the committee would both give the committee two different perspectives and would give those members natural allies in the process.

It is important to add that while the Access to Justice Board has a liaison to the committee, it is not the same thing. First, the committee members are privy to insider briefings and explanations about technical changes being proposed as well as budgetary briefings that the liaison is not. Secondly, without a vote, any Access to Justice Board liaison can be taken less seriously. To truly represent the substantial community of self-represented litigants in this state, and push access to the courts forward, the Board firmly believes two voting members need to be added.

Sincerely,

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Esperanza Borboa, Chair
Access to Justice Board

Cc: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Farino, Amber](#)
Cc: [Ward, David](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Revisions to JISCR 2, Membership - Comment
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025 4:02:44 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-odup5t2t.png](#)
[2025.4.17.JISC Membership.ATJ Board Comment.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bonnie Sterken <bonnies@wsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 4:00 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Esperanza Borboa <esperanza@challengetherules.org>; terran <terran@wsba.org>; Diana Singleton <dianas@wsba.org>
Subject: Proposed Revisions to JISCR 2, Membership - Comment

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Hello

Attached, please find a letter from the Access to Justice Board regarding proposed revisions to JISCR 2, Membership.

Thank you

[cid:42c74908-508d-4926-820c-ad6647257a3c]

Bonnie Middleton Sterken | Equity and Justice Lead

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Pronouns: She/Her

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