

The Supreme Court  
State of Washington

BARBARA A. MADSEN  
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June 13, 2013

Mr. David Schumacher, Director  
Office of Financial Management  
P. O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

RE: Judicial Branch Contingency Planning

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

Thank you for the leadership role that you and Governor Inslee have played in developing the 2013-2015 biennial budget. I agree that contingency planning is an appropriate step that should be taken at this time.

Judicial branch leadership representing the Supreme Court, State Law Library, Court of Appeals, Office of Civil Legal Aid, Office of Public Defense, Commission on Judicial Conduct, and the Administrative Office of the Courts, met to discuss functions that must continue in the event that the Legislature fails to meet the July 1, 2013 deadline.

We approached our analysis much as we have for our continuity of operations plan; namely, we identified those functions that cannot be stopped even for the shortest period of time. The functions and services outlined below are based on an assumption that normal governmental operations would begin again after one week. If a state budget is not passed beyond that time period, we will need to reevaluate the situation to determine if additional functions and services are necessary.

To that end, we have identified the following functions and services that are critical to the continued functioning of the judicial system in Washington State. These include:

1. Maintaining the operations of the statewide court case management and other technology systems and related services in order to prevent interruption of the state's courts.

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2. Maintaining staff to ensure that the state meets its obligation to pay appellate court justices' and judges' salaries and benefits and a portion of superior court judges' salaries and benefits which cannot be reduced or eliminated.
3. Maintaining other infrastructure services necessary to ensure courts and state judicial branch agencies can continue to operate uninterrupted.
4. Maintaining appellate, dependency and termination, and RCW 71.09 representation services.

If you should have any questions, please contact Callie Dietz, State Court Administrator at (360) 357-2120 or Ramsey Radwan, Director of the Management Services Division of AOC at (360) 357-2406.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Madsen  
Chief Justice

c: Washington Supreme Court Justices  
Hon. Stephen Dwyer, Court of Appeals  
Kay Newman, Washington State Law Library  
Joanne Moore, Office of Public Defense  
Reiko Callner, Commission on Judicial Conduct  
James Bamberger, Office of Civil Legal Aid  
Callie Dietz, Administrative Office of the Courts  
Ramsey Radwan, Administrative Office of the Courts