

**BYLAWS
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

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**BYLAWS
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this organization is the "Superior Court Judges' Association," hereinafter "Association."

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purposes of the Association are as follows:

1. To improve the administration of justice.
2. To conduct instructive programs whereby higher standards of efficiency and excellence may be obtained and to better equip the superior court judicial officers of Washington in the proper performance of their duties.
3. To support and implement the canons of judicial ethics.
4. To promote the interchange of ideas and to encourage cooperation and social contacts among the members of the judiciary.
5. To promote the objectives of statutes relating to the Association.
6. To promote better relations with the public and the other branches of government.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Association shall consist of all active judges of the superior court of the state of Washington.

Full time superior court commissioners and superior court commissioners who (1) devote at least fifty percent of their time to the superior court, and (2) are not actively engaged in the practice of law shall be non-

voting members and may attend all meetings of the Association.

Retired superior court judges may attend all meetings of the Association but will have no voting rights.

**ARTICLE IV
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

Annual dues shall be paid for all members of the organization by the counties. All assessments shall be paid personally by the member.

Failure of a member to pay any personal assessment will disqualify that member from any appointed or elected position with the Association, or from chairing any Association committee or from serving as a delegate or representative of the Association.

The funds received as annual dues shall be maintained in the bank account created for the Superior Court Judges' Association. The personal assessments collected shall be maintained in a separate bank account by the Treasurer of the Association. Funds received in payment of annual dues shall not be used in any effort to support or oppose changes in compensation or other employment benefits for members and shall not be co-mingled with funds paid for assessments.

Annual dues payable to the Association shall be fixed at any regular meeting by the Board of Trustees. If no action is taken on such matter, however, the dues shall be in the amount last set by the Board of Trustees.

Annual dues payable to the Association by full-time commissioners shall be in the amount of one-half of that of the active judges.

The Board of Trustees shall have authority to impose upon members a personal assessment in an amount not to exceed \$50 in any one year. The Board of Trustees shall also have emergency authority to assess members an additional amount consistent

with the needs of the members which can include but shall not be limited to lobbying efforts on behalf of the members for pension, salaries, and benefits. Any other change in the personal assessment amount may be made only at a regular meeting by a majority vote of voting members present.

Each active superior court judge shall pay personally to the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA), a pro-rata contribution determined annually, or less often as determined by the BJA, in support of activities unanimously approved by all four levels of the judiciary at meetings of the BJA.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

The officers of the Association shall be a President, who shall be called President-Judge, a President-Elect, an immediate Past-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the Trustees.

The Association shall elect the following official representatives: four superior court judges to serve, along with the President-Judge, on the Board for Judicial Administration, with terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the appropriate years; four superior court members of the Bench-Bar-Press Committee; and one superior court member of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, along with one alternate, all of which shall be elected official representatives of the Association. Non-elective official representatives of the Association to serve as members on or as delegates to other councils, commissions, boards, committees, or conferences external to the Association shall be appointed from time to time by the President-Judge, subject to approval of the Board of Trustees.

No person shall have the authority to represent the Association on any board, council, commission, or committee unless elected or appointed thereto as herein provided.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President-Judge shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Trustees and perform the duties usually incident to such office, and shall speak for the Association.

The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President-Judge in the absence of or incapacity of the President-Judge and shall automatically be elected President-Judge at the Association election next following such election as President-Elect.

Whenever the President-Judge or the President-Elect serves as a voting member on other judicial boards, committees, work groups, task forces or the like in their capacity as President-Judge or President-Elect of the SCJA, he or she shall cast votes on such other groups in accordance with the direction of the SCJA Board if the Board has taken a position on an issue that is before such group.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall perform the duties usually incident to those offices and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall deposit funds of the Association in such financial institutions as may be designated by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may specify that the Treasurer be bonded and shall fix the amount of such bond. The Treasurer shall disburse Association funds within the budget approved by the Board of Trustees upon approval of the President-Judge, provided, however, that the Board of Trustees may give blanket approval for payment of the usual expenditures ordinarily incurred without the necessity for approval of each individual item by the President-Judge.

The Board of Trustees shall be the governing body of the Association, shall prepare the budget, shall direct the business of the Association, and shall have the authority between meetings of the Association to initiate and execute such business as requires action before the next

regular or special meeting. The Board shall have authority to direct the expenditure of Association funds for emergency purposes.

Executive sessions of the Board of Trustees may be held upon majority vote to discuss security, personnel, potential litigation, or other matters deemed confidential. A motion to enter executive session shall set forth the purpose of the executive session, which shall be included in the general minutes.

Between regular meetings the Board shall have the authority to determine and express the position of the Association to appropriate committees of the legislature as to pending legislation and to introduce legislation in the name of the Association which is not inconsistent with policies previously determined by the Association by a vote of the membership.

**ARTICLE VII
TERMS AND ELECTION OF
OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

The President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Association, and shall hold office during the year following their election and until their successors have been elected, provided that successor officers shall assume office immediately following the close of the meeting at which they are elected. The President-Judge, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past-President, provided that judge remains an active superior court judge during the year, shall be members-at-large of the Board of Trustees.

The remaining Trustees shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting for three-year terms, as provided below and shall represent the following districts:

1. Association District No. 1: King County.
2. Association District No. 2: Kitsap and Pierce Counties.

3. Association District No. 3: Clallam, Island,, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties.
4. Association District No. 4: Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific-Wahkiakum, and Thurston Counties.
5. Association District No. 5: Adams, Benton-Franklin, Columbia-Garfield-Asotin, Kittitas, Skamania-Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties.
6. Association District No. 6: Chelan, Douglas, Ferry-Pend Oreille-Stevens, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, and Whitman Counties.

Two Trustees shall be elected from District 1, and one Trustee shall be elected from each other district. The Trustees shall be elected in the following sequence: As to the 1st Association District, one shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of 1998 and at every third Annual Spring Meeting occurring thereafter, and one shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of 1997 and at every third Annual Spring Meeting thereafter. Trustees to be elected from the 2nd and 5th Association Districts shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of 1999 and at every Third Annual Spring Meeting thereafter. Trustees to be elected from the 3rd and 4th Association Districts shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of 1997 and at every third Annual Spring Meeting thereafter. The Trustee to be elected from the 6th Association District shall be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting of 1998 and at every third Annual Spring Meeting thereafter.

The terms of all Trustees elected to serve complete terms at or after the Annual Spring Meeting of 1990 shall be for three years unless specifically set out otherwise. The terms of Trustees elected to fill vacancies of one or two years shall coincide with the respective vacancy being filled. A shorter term vacancy in advance of the next association election shall be filled in accordance with Article IX.

A Trustee shall not serve more than one three-year term consecutively; however, a

Trustee may serve an unexpired term of less than three years and then serve a consecutive three-year term.

**ARTICLE VIII
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

The Nominating Committee of the Superior Court Judges' Association shall consist of the then current Trustees of the Association and the immediate Past President of the Association who shall be the chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall, prior to the Annual Spring Meeting, nominate candidates for President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, representatives to the Board for Judicial Administration, Bench-Bar-Press Committee, and Commission on Judicial Conduct (CJC). An alternate will also be elected to serve on the CJC, and the CJC representative and alternate representative must be from different judicial districts. Elections will be separate for the CJC representative position and the alternate CJC position. In the event that more than one candidate runs for the alternate member position on the CJC, the candidate with the most votes who is not from the same judicial district as the regular voting member on the CJC will be elected as the alternate member.

SCJA is committed to promoting diversity in all aspects of its work. Nomination(s) shall be made by the Nominating Committee, which shall actively seek diversity in candidates for officers, Trustees, delegates, and committees. Nominees should be representative of membership and reflect diversity of age, gender, race, ethnic background, experience, and geographic balance.

The names of such nominees shall be mailed to the Association membership at least thirty days prior to the Annual Spring Meeting and shall be submitted to the membership at that meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Spring Meeting.

The votes shall be cast at the Annual Spring Meeting, and in the case of any contested office or position, they shall be by written ballot unless dispensed with by a majority vote of those present. The persons receiving the most votes for each office shall be deemed to be elected to such office and serve for the term set out in these bylaws, or with respect to elected official representatives, as provided by the relevant statute or order establishing the particular board, council, commission, or committee.

The Trustee(s) of each District shall be the chair(s) of the Nominating Committee for each District for the purpose of nominating candidates for the position of Trustee. Each Trustee shall, at least thirty days prior to the Annual Spring Conference, send a notice to each judge in his/her District of a caucus to be held at the Spring Conference to nominate candidate(s) for Trustee for any position that is open in that District. All judges who are interested in a Trustee position can notify the current Trustee of their interest. If more than one candidate has submitted his/her name, an election shall be held at the caucus to be held as provided above. It is the intent in multiple county districts that rotation in the selection of Trustees between county or counties should occur on a regular basis.

The nominations made in each District shall take into consideration the available candidates and, to the extent possible, reflect diversity of age, gender, race, ethnic background, experience, and geographic balance.

**ARTICLE IX
VACANCIES**

If a vacancy occurs in any elective office of the Association during the elective term of the incumbent, such vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees; however, an election shall be held at the next Annual Spring Meeting in any instance where an unexpired elective term of one or more years remains to be

served subsequent to such next Annual Spring Meeting.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

The standing committees shall be (1) Best Practices, (2) Civil Law and Rules, (3) Criminal Law and Rules, (4) Family and Juvenile Law, (5) Guardianship and Probate, (6) Judicial Education, (7) Judicial Ethics, (8) Rural Courts, (9) Legislative, (10) Equality and Fairness, (11) Technology, (12) Pensions and Benefits, (13) Therapeutic Courts, (14) Public Outreach, and (15) Work-Life Balance.

The President-Judge shall appoint the members and chairs of all committees except the Judicial Education Committee, the appointments for which are separately addressed.

The President-Judge shall appoint the members and chair of the Judicial Education Committee for 1990-91 who initially shall serve staggered terms of one, two, and three years. Thereafter the President-Judge shall fill vacancies which arise through expiration of terms, interim vacancies, or new positions. Succeeding terms shall be for three years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment at the option of the President-Judge serving at the time reappointment is considered.

In addition to active superior court judges, retired superior court judges, superior court commissioners, court administrators, attorneys, and non-attorneys may be appointed to serve on any committees with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Such persons may be guests at any meeting of a committee, but shall have no voting rights.

Each committee shall have such jurisdiction and perform such functions as the Board of Trustees deems appropriate. The committee shall report and make recommendations from time to time to the Board of Trustees and shall provide an annual report in writing to the Board of Trustees thirty days prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

ARTICLE XI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee, composed of the President-Judge, President-Elect, and the immediate Past-President, which shall have such powers as are specifically conferred upon it by the Board of Trustees, subject to review by the Board.

A vacancy on the Executive Committee shall be filled from the Board of Trustees by appointment of the President-Judge.

It is the purpose of this committee to consider and take action on routine matters and matters of minor importance which may require action between regular Board meetings. The Executive Committee also is authorized to set the legislative position of the Association and to communicate such position to all segments of the legislative process.

The Executive Committee may act on other matters arising between meetings of the Board provided, however, such action shall be subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XII REGULAR MEETINGS

There shall be one regular meeting of the Association each year, at such time specified by the call of the President-Judge, known as the Annual Spring Meeting, at which such business may be transacted as may come properly before the Association.

The Annual Spring Meeting shall be held at such time and place as announced by the President-Judge.

Executive sessions of the Association may be held upon majority vote to discuss security, personnel, potential litigation, or other matters deemed confidential. A motion to enter executive session shall set forth the purpose of the executive session, which shall be included in the general minutes.

Reasonable notice shall be given to each member of each regular meeting.

In addition to the regular annual meeting of the Association, the Board shall meet on the first Saturday of each month at the time and location designated in the annual schedule set by the Board. Members of the Board who cannot attend the meeting in person shall be permitted to attend and participate by phone, Skype, Facetime, or through any available electronic means.

Additionally, from time to time, as appropriate, the President-Judge may call a meeting of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIII SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President-Judge, or a resolution of the Board of Trustees, or upon written request of a majority of the members of the Association. Reasonable notice of such special meeting shall be given each member, specifying the time and place and purpose of such meeting.

Additionally, from time to time, as appropriate, the President-Judge may call a meeting of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIV QUORUM

One-third of the voting members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at regular or special meetings of the Association. Three Trustees-at-large and four district Trustees shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS AND REPEAL OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Association, or through an e-mail vote. Any vote by e-mail shall be received no later than the date set forth in a notice requesting an e-mail vote.

Amendment of these bylaws requires a two-thirds majority vote of those members voting.

No motion or resolution for amendment may be considered by the membership unless an e-mail of the proposed motion or resolution has been sent at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which such proposed motion or resolution is to be considered.

ARTICLE XVI RESOLUTIONS

No committee report recommending or matter involving amendment of the Washington State Constitution, changes in substantive or procedural law, questions of policy respecting the administration of justice, amendment of the canons of judicial ethics, or meetings with any other judicial organization shall be acted upon other than by reference to the Board of Trustees unless a proposed resolution embodying the same has been filed with the Secretary and mailed to the membership at least thirty days before the date of the regular meeting.

The Association members shall vote to adopt or reject such resolutions or may, in lieu of adoption or rejection, vote to refer the same to the Board of Trustees for action thereon.

This limitation shall not apply to matters submitted by the Board of Trustees, courtesy resolutions of thanks and appreciation, and incidental motions and resolutions having to do with business otherwise properly before the Association or with conducting the regular meeting.

ARTICLE XVII SPEAKER FOR ASSOCIATION

Other than the President-Judge or a designee, unless specifically authorized by the Board of Trustees, no officer, member, or committee of the Association shall (a) act or purport to act, speak or purport to speak for the Association; or (b) publicly announce, publish, cause to be published, or release for publication any statement or declaration

purporting to be the intent, position, or policy of the Association, Board of Trustees, or committee of the Association.

**ARTICLE XVIII
REPRESENTATION TO THE BOARD
FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

1. Purpose. It is of primary importance to the Association that courts have an effective voice in dealing with issues that affect the courts at all levels across the state. The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) is serving that purpose through its membership and committees. The goals and objectives of the BJA are designed to carry out the mission of providing equal justice for all while accomplishing purposes as set forth in Article II.
2. Five members of the SCJA shall serve on BJA. They shall be the President-Judge who will remain in office through his or her term. Of the remaining four members, one member shall be selected from District 1; one member shall be selected from Districts 2, 3, and 4, excluding Pierce and Snohomish counties; one member shall be selected from Pierce and Snohomish counties; and one member shall be selected from Districts 5 and 6. Terms of service for all Association representatives to BJA shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the appropriate years.
3. The Nominating Committee will present to the membership at its spring meeting candidates for those positions. The nominations shall be based upon the standards found in Article VIII.
4. The initial election being held in the spring of the year 2000, the representative to the BJA shall have the following terms: President-Judge, one year; and between the four

members they shall draw by lot for which member shall have the four year term, which member shall have the three year term, which member shall have the two year term, and which member will have the one year term. When the term expires, that vacancy will then be filled by election held at the annual meeting in the spring.

5. The President-Elect shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board for Judicial Administration.

**ARTICLE XIX
REMOVAL FROM THE SCJA BOARD**

1. Members of the SCJA Board of Trustees are required to attend all regular SCJA Board meetings. The President-Judge may excuse an absence for good cause. If a Board member has three (3) consecutive non-excused absences from Board meetings or is absent from 40% or more of the Board meetings for the year, the President-Judge and/or a majority of the Executive Committee shall place a motion before the Board to remove said Board member. As used in this paragraph, a "year" is defined by the term of office held by the President-Judge.
2. Consistent with CJC 1.2, Board Members are expected to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and to avoid impropriety or the appearance of impropriety. If conduct of a Board Member, actual or alleged, raises a real and substantial question regarding the trust and confidence of the public, the President-Judge and/or a majority of the Executive Committee shall place a motion before the Board to remove said Board member.

Process:

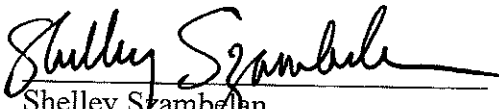
Prior to any vote on the motion, the responding Board member shall be given written notice of the motion. Absent an emergency, notice shall be provided at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the vote will occur.

At the Board meeting in which a removal motion is being considered, the Board member to whom the motion pertains shall be given an opportunity to respond to the motion. The responding Board member shall have the option of presenting their response in open session or during an executive session. Deliberations shall be held during an executive session with the responding Board member excused. The final vote shall be taken during the regular meeting at the close of the deliberations. A Board member shall only be removed by a vote of the majority of the Board of Trustees present at the meeting. The responding Board member shall not be permitted to vote.

Replacement of a removed Board member shall be done in accordance with SCJA Bylaws pertaining to filling of vacant Board positions.

The foregoing bylaws adopted as amended by three-fourths vote of members of the Association at the Annual Business Meeting, via Zoom, Washington, April 27, 2022, are effective on adjournment of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting.

ATTESTED – April 25, 2023:


Shelley Szambelan
SECRETARY