

ORDER

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That the Access to Justice Board is hereby reauthorized and shall continue to be administered by the Washington State Bar Association, and is charged with responsibility to achieve equal access to the civil justice system for those facing economic and other significant barriers.

The Access to Justice Board shall consist of nine members nominated by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association and appointed by the Supreme Court. Members are appointed based on experience in and commitment to access to justice issues. Therefore, the Board of Governors shall broadly solicit and make nominations to the Supreme Court based on experience in and commitment to access to justice issues, consistent with the needs of the Access to Justice Board, including, for example, people affiliated with the following constituencies:

Board for Judicial Administration
Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors
Statewide Staffed Legal Services Programs
Volunteer Legal Services Community
Other Members and Supporters of the Washington State
Alliance for Equal Justice

The remaining four members shall be nominated on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to, and familiarity with, access to justice issues.

Of these, not less than one or more than two members of the Board shall be a nonattorney.

The membership of the Board shall reflect ethnic, gender, geographic, and other diversity.

Mid-term vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments, provided however, the solicitation for nominations may be abbreviated. The appointee for a mid-term vacancy shall fill the remainder of the vacated term and shall be eligible for reappointment up to two additional terms.

The Board shall designate one member as the chairperson of the Board who shall serve a term of two years and who shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional two-year term. An individual may continue to serve as chairperson even notwithstanding the expiration of his or her term on the Board.

Appointments shall be for a three-year term. Board members shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term.

ORDER

The Access to Justice Board shall work to:

- Establish, coordinate and oversee a statewide, integrated, nonduplicative, civil legal services delivery system that is responsive to the needs of the poor, vulnerable and moderate means individuals;
- Establish and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the civil legal services delivery system against an objective set of standards and criteria;
- Promote adequate levels of public, private and volunteer support for Washington State's civil equal justice network;
- Serve as an effective clearinghouse and mechanism for communication and information dissemination;
- Promote, develop, and implement policy initiatives and criteria which enhance the availability of resources for essential civil equal justice activities;
- Develop and implement new programs and innovative measures designed to expand access to justice in Washington State;
- Promote jurisprudential understanding of the law relating to the fundamental right of individuals to secure meaningful access to the civil justice system;
- Promote widespread understanding of civil equal justice among the members of the public through public legal education;
- Promote the responsiveness of the civil justice system to the needs of those who suffer disparate treatment or disproportionate access barriers; and
- Address existing and proposed laws, rules, and regulations that may adversely affect meaningful access to the civil justice system.

The Access to Justice Board may adopt internal operational rules pertinent to these powers and duties.

The Access to Justice Board shall be funded and staffed by the Washington State Bar Association, which shall have authority to establish a budget and approve expenditures.

The Board shall file with the Supreme Court and the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association an annual report outlining its work during the prior 12-month period.

ORDER

DATED at Olympia, Washington this _____ day of April, 2010.

Johnson, J.
Alexander, J.
Sanders, J.
Chamberlain, J.

Madsen, C. J.
Quinn, J.
Fairhurst, J.
McQuinn, J.
Stegman, J.