

2023 WJCCA Conference

Director of State Courts Update

Holly Szablewski
Deputy Director of State Courts
Office of Court Operations

Updates from the Director's Office

- 2023-2025 Budget
- Making the Record Committee
- Interpreter Guidelines
- Chief Justice Mental Health Summit
- Court Operations



2023-2025 Biennial Budget Requests

- New Judgeships
- Cybersecurity
- Judicial/Court Security
- Digital Audio Recording Systems



New Judgeships

- \$2.3M to cover new judgeship costs
- Clark, Manitowoc, Sawyer and Wood counties
- 4 judges and 4 court reporters, one-time infrastructure costs, ongoing operational costs
- Additional \$840K to support payments to counties for circuit court costs

Cybersecurity Program

- \$2.6M for new and ongoing cybersecurity initiatives and related maintenance



Judicial/Court Security

- Chief Justice requested \$2.4M to create the Office of the Supreme Court Marshal Law Enforcement Agency
- 6 staff, business manager
- Request included \$500,000 to provide grants to counties to support security enhancements
- This request was not included Act 19

Digital Audio Recording Systems

- \$1.6M to support the installation and on-going life-cycle maintenance replacement cost of digital audio recording devices for court reporting
- This request was not included in Act 19



Making the Record Committee

- Mission: Ensure the integrity of the court system by protecting the ability to take and produce the court record
- Focus:
 - *Review statute and rule language
 - *Make recommendations necessary to promote efficient use
 - *Maintain effective method for taking and producing record
- Recommendations:
 - *Clarification of supervisory roles
 - *Change SCRs to require audio backup from stenographers
 - *Committee of Chief Judges convene subcommittee to address continued court reporter shortage and ongoing challenges



Interpreter Rates & Payment Guidelines

- Developed in consultation with clerks of court, court interpreters, and using information from other states
- Recommendations for counties to use when negotiating rates of payment and terms of work
- Goal is to provide counties with uniform guidance they can use to effectively contract
- Provide consistency across counties
- Address topics such as billing rates, cancellation policies, and travel expenses
- We cannot require counties to adopt these guidelines, but we want to encourage all counties to follow them in an effort to control the rising cost of hiring interpreters



Chief Justice Mental Health Summit

- Chief Justice Summit on Mental Health –April 2023
- 170 attendees, 33 counties
- Judges, AG, SPD, legislators, state/county human services, law enforcement
- Summit website (<https://www.wicourts.gov/mhsummit.htm>)
- Next steps

Court Operations

New District Court Administrators

- Stephanie Garbo-District 1 (June 2023)
- Amber Peterson-District 5 (July 2023)
- Ross Munns-District 10 (February 2023)

New Legal Advisor Supervisor

- Krista Miller (July 2023)



Contact Information

Office of Court Operations
110 E Main Street, Suite 410
Madison, WI 53703-3356
Phone: (608) 266-3121
Fax: (608) 267-0911