
In the Matter of the Amendment of SCR 70.03 and 70.12(1)(c)3.
and the creation of SCR 70.12(5), SCR 70.12(6) and SCR 70.16,
relating to the Supreme Court Finance Committee

PETITION
12-07

Now comes the petitioner, Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, and petitions the supreme court to amend Supreme Court Rules (SCR) 70.03 and SCR 70.12(1)(c)3. and to create SCR 70.12(5), SCR 70.12(6) and SCR 70.16 to comport with the establishment and operation of the supreme court finance committee.

This petition is filed pursuant to the supreme court's administrative authority established in Article VII, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution.

On February 4, 2011, at open administrative conference and by a unanimous vote, the supreme court established the supreme court finance committee, comprised of the chief justice of the supreme court, two additional justices elected by members of the supreme court, the chief judge of the court of appeals and the chief of the chief judges of the circuit court judges. The function of the finance committee was generally described as participating in the gathering and sharing budgetary information with the director of state courts and the supreme court, relating to preparation of the court system's biennial budget, the court system's operational budgets and the annual operational plan for the grants that the supreme court administers.

On October 10, 2011, the supreme court finance committee held its first meeting in open conference in the supreme court hearing room. Members of the supreme court finance committee who were present were: Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, Justice Michael J. Gableman, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard Brown, and Circuit Court Chief Judge William Foust. Also in attendance was Director of State Courts A. John Voelker.

On May 25, 2012, Justice Patience Drake Roggensack attended a PPAC subcommittee meeting as a member of the supreme court finance committee. Various budget proposals that had been received by Deb Brescoll were reviewed. Justice Roggensack requested additional information relative to budget proposals. John Voelker provided that information to all supreme court justices on May 29, 2012.

The petitioner proposes that SCR ch. 70 be amended and created as follows:

SCR 70.03 Director; budget.

The director of state courts shall have the responsibility and authority for the development of the budget for the court system for submission to the supreme court for final approval. As part of the director's budget development responsibility, the director shall consult with the supreme court finance committee. In this regard, the director shall begin providing financial information to the supreme court finance committee as soon as responses are received regarding the budget and policy officer's request for budget proposals that relate to preparation of the court system's biennial budget. The director shall continue to provide information to the supreme court finance committee regarding the preparation of the court system's biennial budget, the court system's operational budgets, and the annual operational plan for the grants that the supreme court administers.

SCR 70.12 Budget procedures and policies.

(1) The basic components of the budget process for the judicial branch shall include:

...

(1m) There shall be an internal budget request and review procedure during the preparation of each biennial budget which involves:

...

3. A review of all requests from all components of the judicial branch by the director of state courts and the supreme court finance committee and a final decision by the director, after consultation with the supreme court finance committee.

...

(5) The supreme court finance committee shall participate in gathering and sharing budgetary information with the supreme court, in regard to the preparation of the court system's biennial budget, the court system's operational budgets, and the annual operational plan for grants that the supreme court administers.

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(6) The supreme court finance committee shall meet at least 4 times per calendar year.

When practicable, such meetings shall occur in March, June, September and December of each year. Meetings may be held by teleconferencing.

Deleted: at the end of each quarter, i.e.,

SCR 70.16 Supreme Court Finance Committee

The supreme court finance committee is a standing committee of the supreme court. The supreme court finance committee is comprised of the chief justice, two additional justices elected by members of the supreme court, the chief judge of the court of appeals, and the chief of the chief judges of the circuit court judges or his or her designee. The director of state courts, the court's chief budget and policy officer, and the deputy director of state courts for management services shall staff the supreme court finance committee.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of July, 2012.

Patience Drake Roggensack
Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court