
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

MEMORANDUM

PETITION

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This rules petition comes before the court on the petition of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Patience Drake Roggensack. The petitioner petitions the supreme court to amend 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 describe the following: (1) the composition of the supreme court finance committee, (2) the general functions of the supreme court finance committee, and (3) the general interactions of the supreme court finance committee with others involved in the court system's various budgeting processes.

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 of 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. All members of the supreme court finance committee were present: 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 all of the budget proposals that had been received. John Voelker provided the information Justice Roggensack requested to all supreme court justices on May 29, 2012.

In regard to the amendments to SCR 70.03 and SCR 70.12(1)(c)3. and the creation of SCR 70.12(5), SCR 70.12(6) and SCR 70.16, all will be helpful in describing anticipated interactions of the supreme court finance committee with those involved in the various budgeting processes so that the supreme court finance committee may gather budgeting information at the earliest occasions and participate in discussing such information early in the budgeting process. In that regard, it is anticipated that the supreme court finance committee will work closely with A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts; Deb Brescoll, Budget and Policy Officer; and Pamela Radloff, Deputy Director of State Courts. It is also anticipated that the supreme court finance committee will consider PPAC's biennial critical issues plan and participate in PPAC subcommittees that pertain to court budgeting.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of July, 2012.

Patience Drake Roggensack
Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court