

February 27, 2013, Meeting Minutes  
Radisson Gateway, 18118 International Blvd, Seattle

The meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was brought to order by Michele Adams at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

- Michele Adams, Chair
- Rose Amurao
- Matthew Clark
- James Currin
- Gregory Dallaire
- Lynda Henderson
- Erin John
- Ned Lange
- Robert Mendez
- Kathe Morris
- Leslie Santana

- Dick Walter, Vice-Chair
- Justine Winnie

Commission Members Excused:

- Suzanne Dinning
- Liz Heath
- Larry Lanning

Staff Present:

- Teri Wright, Director
- Jenny Sutley, Executive Assistant

## Meeting Opening Statement and Approval of the January 30 and 31, 2013 Minutes

Michele Adams read the opening statement. Teri Wright explained that the minutes had been changed to correct that Justine Winnie was added to the members in attendance for the January 30 and 31 meeting. There was a motion by Ned Lange to approve the minutes with the change. The motion was seconded by Robert Mendez and carried with a unanimous voice vote.

## Review Meeting Folder Items

Teri went over meeting folder contents, including additions to commissioner binders and the meeting agenda.

## Public Testimony

**Judge Richard McDermott, King County Superior Court Judge**, commented that the job description of Superior Court Judge has changed in the last five years. Case counts per judge have increased and they have no court clerks to assist with research. They



regularly work weekends and are on call to sign warrants. He also commented that they are losing people to the private sector because of the higher pay. They have had no cost of living increase since September 2008. He asked for consideration of a cost of living increase. Judges are not allowed to have a second job, unless it is a teaching job. Additionally, Judges often have their lives threatened.

**Judge Andrea Darvas, King County Superior Court Judge**, spoke about case load increases. Superior Court Judges have no law clerks or judicial assistants. They do their own legal research, as well as type their own findings, orders, and opinions. She spoke about the differences between the Superior Court Judges and the Federal bench. The Federal bench has a lighter trial schedule and numerous support staff. Ned Lange asked if she thought the proposed salary adjustment was inadequate. She responded that she believed it is a good start. There is concern among the Judicial Branch that the Proposed Salary Schedule may not be what is adopted in May.

**Mr. David Heller, Lawyer**, spoke about the work load of a judge that he experiences being married to a judge. There are many late nights a week, as well as middle of the night phone calls to sign warrants. Being on call has an effect on family time. He also commented that a federal court judge keeps his/her salary for life.

**Ms. Michele Radosevich, President of the Washington State Bar Association**, supports the proposed salary schedule and urged the Commission to adopt the increase for the Judicial Branch.

### **Commissioner Work Session**

Teri explained that she had been in touch with the State Human Resources Office regarding the Willis Study update for the Executive Branch that was requested at the January meeting. The Willis Study can be done for \$4,600. A motion was made by to request the Willis Study for the Executive Branch by Matthew Clark and seconded by James Currin. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Teri mentioned that Tsering Kheyap is the new Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Commission.

Teri talked with the Commission about the public disclosure request for Legislator's outside employment and salaries, which were requested at the January meeting. She strongly believes that outside salary information does not have any connection to the Commission's salary setting responsibility. There was a consensus by the Commission that this is accurate. She let the Commission know she could request an update from the National Conference of State Legislatures to see if our Legislators still work 70% of a

full-time job. A motion was made by Dick Walter to get this information and was seconded by Rose Amurao. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Teri informed the Commission that she had received a public disclosure request from the Republic of Kenya. They have looked through the United States for a salary commission for which to use as a model their compensation commission. They have requested information about how the Commission is run as well as how the Commission was originally formed. A request has also been made to set up a delegation to visit the Commission.

Teri was contacted by a Commission member and was asked to get additional information about the Insurance Commissioner's role in the Medicaid expansion. Teri gave the Commission a letter from the Insurance Commissioner providing clarification, a copy of the 2010 Insurance Commissioner Position Description, and offered to send them a copy of an e-mail she had received from the Health Care Authority regarding the same topic. This information was provided for each Commissioner to decide if the responsibilities of the Insurance Commissioner have expanded.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion by Ned Lange and seconded by Erin John. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Michele Adams, Chair

3/27/2013  
Date