



PAUL J. DE MUNIZ
JUDGE

10/30/95

Honorable Wallace P. Carson, Jr.
Chief Justice
Oregon Supreme Court
Salem, Oregon 97310

COURT OF APPEALS

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Dear Chief Justice Carson:

On behalf of the Oregon Supreme Court Implementation Committee, I am pleased to present the Implementation Progress Report of 1995. When you asked me to serve as the Implementation Committee's chairperson sixteen months ago, I was anxious. Today, I am encouraged. I was anxious because the Task Force Report raised many serious concerns and no parallel implementation efforts existed; we were covering new ground. I am encouraged because the implementation project illuminated a dedication to equality and fairness among those working within Oregon's justice system that existed prior to our efforts and has grown stronger along the way. With the publication of this report, the committee's work is complete; however, the report's publication does not signify an end to the overall effort to improve the equality and fairness of Oregon's justice system. Rather, and more importantly, it represents a beginning. It is the foundation of a long-term effort. We hope that this important first step will inspire others to maintain the momentum we worked so hard to create.

The committee designed the report to serve three purposes: (1) to describe implementation efforts; (2) to provide additional proposals; and (3) to serve as a networking resource. The first two purposes are self-explanatory. However, to be sure that you understand the third purpose, I will provide an explanation. Throughout the committee's work, we discovered many entities and individuals who were committed to implementing positive change but little coordination of efforts. Without coordinated efforts, work was duplicated and ideas were not shared. This made implementation proceed more slowly. Moreover, we found no document containing all of the efforts to address issues of the equality and fairness in Oregon's justice system and, in many cases, no written descriptions of innovative programs in operation. The lack of any "source" document, in light of the need to coordinate efforts, motivated the committee to design the report as a networking resource. We accomplished this by, for example, providing written summaries of innovative programs and including contact names and numbers whenever possible.

This report, and the work documented herein, would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of my fellow committee members, the individuals and entities affected by the Task Force recommendations and, of course, your decision to establish the committee. Accordingly, I want to thank the committee members for their time and effort, the entities for their cooperation and commitment and you for your willingness to take this important step in the process of change. I also wanted to recognize specifically the efforts of Edwin J. Peterson, who dedicated an unusual amount of time to our effort and whose commitment immensely improved the committee's work. Finally, I want to thank the committee's coordinator and only staff person, Chris Lundberg, for his contribution to our efforts. Without Chris's creative sense, writing abilities and, above all, commitment to the goals of this project, the committee would not have achieved its high level of success.

Sincerely,


Paul J. De Muniz
Chairperson