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STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: November 5, 2010
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find one (1) request that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration.

JFO #2469 — \$50,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to the Judiciary. This grant will support the strategic planning process focused on the legislatively-approved judicial restructuring and unification project. **Expedited review of this item has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by November 15 with a request to waive the statutory review period and accept this item.**

[JFO received 11/5/10]

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802-828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for Joint Fiscal Committee review.

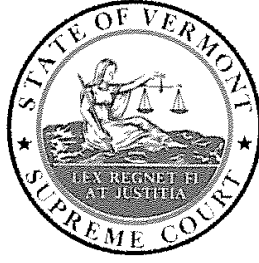
cc: James Reardon, Commissioner
Robert Greemore, Court Administrator

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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November 5, 2010

Representative Michael Obuchowski
Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee
State House
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Representative Obuchowski,

The Judiciary requests an expedited review process of a State Justice Institute grant entitled "Superior Court Planning Project Grant". We make this request because we recognize we cannot make commitments or spend money in anticipation of the grant being approved. It is our understanding the grant has been signed by the Governor and has been sent to Nathan Lavery of your staff.

Under Act 154 regarding restructuring of the Judiciary, the roles of Presiding Judge and Superior Court Clerk have been redefined. The State Justice Institute Grant is designed to assist the new presiding judges and superior court clerks to develop a management team for their respective court units. The grant hires a nationally known expert in local court planning and team building to establish, advise, review, critique and develop implementation strategies for court performance plans and measures in the restructured units.

Because of our need to quickly improve court services and find efficiencies in order to meet our restructuring objectives, we tentatively scheduled and planned the opening training and discussion for November 18th. We needed to schedule this date well in advance because of the need to allocate judge time for this purpose. [The courts schedule judges several months in advance.]

I believe this project will create a systematic approach to evaluating the inventory of court cases, placing appropriate emphasis on when cases should be heard in what order of priority, among other court management concerns that will be addressed.

We received notification of the award in late September and submitted our AA-1 mid-October. The AA-1 was returned to us by the Administration in late October in order to supplement the information provided before presenting it to the Governor for signature who happened to be out-of-state anyway. We resubmitted the grant, the next day and were

notified the Governor signed the AA-1 on November 3rd and that it has been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee.

I am concerned that due to the changed timing, the training scheduled for November 18th is in jeopardy. The State Justice Institute has been very supportive of our efforts to restructure the Judiciary, which they have termed as innovative and ahead of any other restructuring effort in the country.

The Judiciary requests the grant qualify for an expedited review or, possibly, the grant be placed on the agenda of the next Joint Fiscal Committee meeting for approval that is tentatively scheduled for November 15th. I will be available to present the grant and answer any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Greemore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bob Greemore
Court Administrator