

CHAPTER 758

JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCIES AND COMMITTEES

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758.01 State law library. The supreme court shall maintain a state law library for the use of officers and employes of this state, attorneys and the public. The supreme court may promulgate and enforce rules governing the use of the library and appoint and fix the compensation of a librarian and such staff as is necessary to operate the library.

History: 1971 c. 152 ss. 7, 40; 1971 c. 254 ss. 1, 18; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 187 s. 97; Sup. Ct. Order, eff. 1-1-80.

NOTE: The Supreme Court Order dated December 11, 1979, effective January 1, 1980, states that an equivalent provision is contained in the Supreme Court Rules. See SCR 82.01.

758.13 Judicial council. (1) MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; TERMS. There is created a judicial council of 19 members as follows: a supreme court justice designated by the supreme court; a court of appeals judge designated by the court of appeals; the director of state courts or his or her designee; 4 circuit judges designated by the judicial conference; the chairpersons of the senate and the assembly committees dealing with judicial affairs or a member of each such committee designated by the respective chairperson; the attorney general or his or her designee; the revisor of statutes or an assistant designated by the revisor; the deans of the law schools of the university of Wisconsin and Marquette university or a member of the respective law school faculties designated by the deans; the president-elect of the state bar of Wisconsin or a member of the board of governors of the state bar designated by the president-elect and 3 additional members thereof selected by the state bar to serve 3-year terms; and 2 citizens at large appointed by the governor to serve 3-year terms. The names of the members shall be certified to the secretary of state by the executive secretary. Members shall hold office until their successors have been selected. Members shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed from the appropriation made by s. 20.645 (1) for expenses necessarily incurred by them in attending council meetings.

(2) POWERS AND DUTIES. The council shall:

(a) Observe and study the rules of pleading, practice and procedure, and advise the supreme court as to changes which will, in the council's judgment, simplify procedure and promote a speedy determination of litigation upon its merits.

(b) Survey and study the organization, jurisdiction and methods of administration and operation of all the courts of this state.

(d) Receive, consider and in its discretion investigate suggestions from any source pertaining to the administration of justice and to make recommendations.

(e) Keep advised concerning the decisions of the courts relating to the procedure and practice therein and concerning pending legislation affecting the organization, jurisdiction, operation, procedure and practice of the courts.

(f) Recommend to the legislature any changes in the organization, jurisdiction, operation and methods of conducting the business of the courts, including statutes governing pleading, practice, procedure and related matters, which can be put into effect only by legislative action.

(3) ORGANIZATION. (a) The council shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson.

(b) The council may promulgate and modify rules for the conduct of its proceedings in the exercise of its powers. The council may meet at such time and place as it determines but at least once every 3 months. It shall meet upon call of the chairperson or a call signed by 5 members of the council. Nine members shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The council may appoint regular and special committees of its members to investigate and report upon any matters relating to its duties. The council or any committee thereof when so authorized by the council is empowered to hold public hearings at such times and places within the state as may be determined. Any member of the council or any committee thereof shall have the power to administer oaths to persons testifying before the council or committee. By subpoena issued over the signature of its chairperson or acting chairperson and served in

the manner in which circuit court subpoenas are served, the council or any committee when authorized by the council, may summon and compel the attendance of witnesses. If any witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the council or committee thereof refuse to appear or answer inquiries propounded, the council or committee shall report the facts to the circuit court of Dane county and the court shall compel obedience to the subpoena.

(d) The council may determine the qualifications of, and appoint outside the classified service, an executive secretary and such technical and clerical help as it deems necessary. The council shall be provided with adequate office space in the state capitol.

(e) The council may call upon any department of the state or any county or municipality thereof or any court for such facilities and data as may be available, and such departments, counties, municipalities and courts shall cooperate with the council to the fullest extent.

(f) The council may make such reports as it deems proper or as are requested by the legislature or the supreme court. The council may publish such reports as it considers necessary.

History: 1971 c. 254 s. 6; 1975 c. 39, 199; 1977 c. 187 s. 97; 1977 c. 325, 449; Sup. Ct. Order, 88 W (2d) xiii.

758.17 Judicial conference. The judicial conference shall:

(1) Adopt uniform forms necessary for the administration of proceedings under chs. 851 to 882. Duly authenticated copies of these forms shall be furnished to the secretary of state and kept on file in his or her office. The secretary of state shall transmit copies of these forms to all registers in probate.

(2) Adopt uniform forms necessary for the administration of juvenile matters under ch. 48.

Duly authorized copies of these forms shall be furnished to the secretary of state and kept on file in his or her office. The secretary of state shall transmit copies of these forms to the clerks of circuit court.

History: 1971 c. 254 ss. 8, 19; 1977 c. 187 ss. 97, 135; 1977 c. 449; Sup. Ct. Order, 88 W (2d) xiii; Sup. Ct. Order, eff. 1-1-80.

NOTE: The Supreme Court Order dated December 11, 1979, effective January 1, 1980, states that an equivalent provision is contained in the Supreme Court Rules. See SCR 70.15.

758.19 Director of state courts. The director of state courts shall be included within the Wisconsin retirement fund and subch. I of ch. 41 applies to the director as it applies to justices of the supreme court.

History: 1971 c. 254 s. 14; 1975 c. 37, 189, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 187 ss. 97, 135; 1977 c. 305 s. 64; 1977 c. 449; Sup. Ct. Order, 88 W (2d) xiii.

758.25 State bar of Wisconsin. (1) There shall be an association to be known as the "State Bar of Wisconsin" composed of persons licensed to practice law in this state, and membership in such association shall be a condition precedent to the right to practice law in Wisconsin.

(2) The supreme court by appropriate orders shall provide for the organization and government of the association and shall define the rights, obligations and conditions of membership therein, to the end that such association shall promote the public interest by maintaining high standards of conduct in the legal profession and by aiding in the efficient administration of justice.

History: 1971 c. 254 s. 12; 1977 c. 187 s. 97; Sup. Ct. Order, eff. 1-1-80.

NOTE: The Supreme Court Order dated December 11, 1979, effective January 1, 1980, states that an equivalent provision is contained in the Supreme Court Rules. See SCR 10.01.