

**Ilisa Rooke-Ley**  
Circuit Court Judge



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**CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR LANE COUNTY**

Dear Co-Chair Winters and Stark and Members of the Sub-Committee:

We, the undersigned, write today to express our support for the Specialty Courts Grants program now administered through the able hands of the Criminal Justice Commission. In the current biennium, the CJC's budget included \$12.5M General Fund for specialty courts. That funding, combined with additional federal resources, was ultimately awarded to 38 treatment courts across Oregon. Recently, the Criminal Justice Commission released its 2017-19 competitive requests for grant proposals for the 17-19 biennium. The solicitation contains a caveat that "the exact funding amount is contingent up the 2017 legislatively approved budget".

We are aware that the Governor's Recommended Budget and the Co-Chair's framework both contemplate significant cuts to treatment court programs and we urge the Committee to maintain the current service level funding for this program. Cuts to these courts will result in more crime, recidivism and an expanded need for more jail and prison beds (which are ultimately more expensive than treatment court slots). We recognize that within the treatment court model, victims, defendants, and the various public safety agencies seek common ground through rehabilitative and therapeutic treatment solutions rather than simply jail or prison and probation.

Treatment courts practice evidence based, cognitive behavioral therapy models, and in the coming biennium will benefit from the work of Criminal Justice Commission staff who recently completed Oregon Treatment Court Standards, a directive stemming from the passage of HB 3194 (2013). This overlay should give the Sub-Committee a great deal of confidence that the funds allocated for the specialty court program will be invested effectively and efficiently.

Respectfully,

Ilisa Rooke-Ley  
Lane County Circuit  
Court Judge

Patricia Perlow  
Lane County District Attorney

Brook Reinhard Executive  
Director,  
Public Defenders Services of  
Lane County