

---

---

# **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

---

---



**THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**AND**

**WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE  
EMPLOYEES – ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
JUDGES**

**EFFECTIVE**

**JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023**

---

---



**2021-2023**

---

---

**WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES  
2021-2023**

---

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	
<b>ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ARTICLE 2 NON-DISCRIMINATION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ARTICLE 3 HIRING AND APPOINTMENTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>ARTICLE 4 PRO TEM SCHEDULING</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>ARTICLE 5 HOURS OF WORK AND EXCHANGE TIME</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>ARTICLE 6 EMPLOYEE FILES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
6.2 Examination of Employee Files.....	5
6.3 Personnel Files .....	5
6.4 Supervisory Files.....	6
<b>ARTICLE 7 TELEWORKING</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>ARTICLE 8 LEAVE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ARTICLE 9 AGENCY POLICIES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ARTICLE 10 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ARTICLE 11 SAFETY AND HEALTH</b> .....	<b>8</b>
11.4 Ergonomic Assessments .....	9
<b>ARTICLE 12 INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENDED OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>ARTICLE 13 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>ARTICLE 14 UNION ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>10</b>
14.1 Union Representatives.....	10
14.2 Use of State Facilities, Resources and Equipment.....	11
14.3 Information Requests .....	12
14.4 Distribution and/or Posting of Material.....	13
14.5 Successor Agreement Negotiations.....	13
14.6 Access To New Employee Orientation .....	14
14.7 Demand to Bargain – Release Time and Travel .....	14
14.8 Union Electronic Access to Employees: .....	14
<b>ARTICLE 15 UNION DUES DEDUCTION AND STATUS REPORTS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
15.1 Notification to Employees.....	15
15.2 Union Deduction .....	15
15.3 Voluntary Deductions.....	15
15.4 Status Reports .....	16
15.5 Revocation .....	17
15.6 Indemnification .....	18
<b>ARTICLE 16 UNION MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION COMMITTEES</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>ARTICLE 17 INVESTIGATIONS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
17.2 Investigatory Interviews .....	19
<b>ARTICLE 18 DISCIPLINE</b> .....	<b>19</b>
18.1 Disciplinary Action .....	19
18.2 Non-disciplinary Actions.....	19
18.3 Pre-disciplinary Notice and Meeting.....	20
18.6 Final Disposition .....	20

<b>ARTICLE 19 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>20</b>
19.2 Terms and Requirements .....	21
19.3 Filing and Processing .....	23
19.4 Vesting Clause .....	26
19.5 Alternative Remedies .....	26
<b>ARTICLE 20 LAYOFF AND RECALL .....</b>	<b>26</b>
20.1 Definition.....	26
20.3 Basis for Layoff .....	26
20.5 Voluntary Layoff, Leave without Pay or Reduction in Hours.....	27
20.6 Temporary Reduction of Work Hours, Layoff – Employer Option .....	27
20.7 Layoff Units.....	28
20.8 Formal Options .....	28
20.9 Notification for the Union .....	28
20.10 Notification to Employees.....	28
20.11 Seniority.....	29
20.12 Recall.....	29
<b>ARTICLE 21 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>ARTICLE 22 HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AMOUNT.....</b>	<b>31</b>
Value-based benefits designs will.....	31
22.3 Wellness.....	31
22.5 Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement.....	32
<b>ARTICLE 23 COMPENSATION .....</b>	<b>33</b>
23.1 Administrative Law Judges General Service Pay Range Assignments .....	33
23.2 Periodic Increases.....	34
23.3 Longevity Increase .....	34
23.4 Salary Adjustments .....	34
23.5 Adjustment for Change in Appointment .....	34
23.6 Part-Time Employment .....	34
23.7 King County Premium Pay.....	34
23.8 Salary Overpayment Recovery .....	35
<b>ARTICLE 24 MAINTENANCE OF TERMS AND MANDATORY SUBJECTS.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>ARTICLE 25 SAVINGS CLAUSE .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ARTICLE 26 DURATION.....</b>	<b>36</b>

**MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**

---

<b>INDEPENDENCE WORKGROUP .....</b>	<b>M-1</b>
<b>BUDGET SAVINGS FOR 21-23 BIENNIUM .....</b>	<b>M-2</b>
<b>COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT TRAINING 2021-2023.....</b>	<b>M-5</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.....</b>	<b>M-6</b>

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

## **PREAMBLE**

This Agreement is entered into by the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as the “Employer,” and the Administrative Law Judges of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME, Council 28, AFL-CIO, referred to as the “Union.” Pursuant to provisions of [RCW 41.80](#) and in order to establish harmonious employment relations based on mutual respect, to promote the mission of the Office of Administrative Hearings, to cooperate in providing greater public and legislative access to administrative decision making in accordance with [RCW 34.05](#), to recognize the value of employees and the necessary work they perform, to determine wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, and to provide methods for the prompt and equitable resolution of disputes, the parties enter into this Agreement. The Preamble is not subject to the grievance procedure in [Article 19](#), Grievance Procedure.

## **ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION**

The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining representative for the bargaining unit consisting of all administrative law judges working for the Office of Administrative Hearings, excluding deputy chief administrative law judges, division chief administrative law judges, assistant chief administrative law judges, administrative law judges serving on a contractual basis under [RCW 34.12.030\(2\)](#), confidential employees as defined in [RCW 41.80.050](#), and any administrative law judge who reports directly to the chief administrative law judge.

## **ARTICLE 2 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- 2.1** Under this Agreement, neither party will discriminate against employees on the basis of religion, age, sex, marital status, race, color, genetic information, creed, national origin, political affiliation, military status, status as a veteran who has received an honorable discharge or been discharged with an honorable record, a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, citizenship, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, any real or perceived sensory, mental or physical disability, or union activities. Bona fide occupational qualifications based on the above traits do not violate this Article.
- 2.2** Both parties agree that unlawful harassment will not be tolerated, including disparate treatment and hostile work environment on the basis of any of the categories listed in Section 3.1.
- 2.3** Employees who feel they have witnessed or been the subjects of discrimination are encouraged to discuss such issues with their supervisor or other management staff, or file a complaint in accordance with agency policy. In cases where an employee files both a grievance and an internal complaint regarding the alleged discrimination, the grievance process will be immediately suspended until the internal complaint process has been completed. Resolution of the internal complaint process will not be unreasonably delayed. Following completion of the internal complaint process, the Union may request the grievance process be continued. Such request must be made within seven (7) calendar days of the employee and the Union being notified in writing of the findings of the internal complaint.
- 2.4** Both parties agree that nothing in this Agreement will prevent the implementation of an approved affirmative action plan.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **HIRING AND APPOINTMENTS**

- 3.1** OAH will determine when and how a position will be filled, the types of appointment to be used when filling the position, and the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of the specific position. When making an appointment OAH commits to appointing external and internal, qualified and diverse candidates. Applicants or candidates who need a reasonable accommodation are responsible for requesting reasonable accommodations.
- 3.2** When OAH has a vacant, funded, Line ALJ position, OAH will fill the position as follows:
- A. First, the most senior candidate on the OAH internal layoff list, established under [Article 20](#), Layoffs and Recall, who has the competencies, skills, and abilities required for the position.
  - B. Second, OAH will consult the transfer or voluntary demotion request list to determine if an internal candidate who has the competencies, skills and abilities required to perform the duties of the position has expressed an interest in the position. Prior to an offer being made and/or accepted, OAH will clarify any position requirements that may result in changes to the employee's working conditions.
  - C. External qualified candidates.
- 3.3** Promotional opportunities to fill a permanent Lead ALJ or Senior ALJ position shall be conducted through an open, competitive recruitment process. Any internal candidate who meets the qualifications as determined by OAH will be given the opportunity to interview for the promotion.
- 3.4** Any salaried ALJ as of July 1, 2021 who has previously approved part-time hours will not have any changes to their hours or benefits without the mutual agreement of the parties.

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **PRO TEM SCHEDULING**

- 4.1** The OAH policy for Pro Tem Administrative Law Judges will continue to apply to hiring, supervising, and retaining Pro Tem ALJs. OAH may limit the number of hours Pro Tem ALJs work in a given time period, or require a minimum number of hours to be worked. Assessment of the hours worked by Pro Tem ALJs will look at the number of hours worked in a six-month period to determine compliance with the OAH Pro Tem ALJ policy.
- 4.2** Pro Tem ALJs will be scheduled hours and assigned cases according to their availability. Pro Tem ALJs are required to advise their supervisor and OAH support

staff of the hours and days they are available to be scheduled. Subject to business needs, scheduled hours and assigned cases will not be unreasonably withheld from any Pro Tem ALJ who is available and advises of their availability.

- 4.3** The layoff article within this collective bargaining agreement does not apply to Pro Tem ALJs. During a reduction in force of ALJs, Pro Tem ALJs will be removed from the schedule.

## **ARTICLE 5 HOURS OF WORK AND EXCHANGE TIME**

- 5.1** Administrative law judges are expected to devote all the time necessary to deliver the highest quality adjudicative services. This may require working beyond their regular schedule.
- 5.2** The standard work schedule for employees is Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a one-hour unpaid lunch break between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Upon hire, ALJs are assigned a standard schedule. Any ALJ may request a non-standard schedule at any time as provided below.
- A. Alternate schedule: a schedule that changes the start and end times, and/or the lunch period, while being scheduled for work on all weekdays;
  - B. Compressed work week: a schedule that allows employees to eliminate at least one work day every two weeks by working longer hours during the remaining days. The eliminated work day is known as a flex day or scheduled day off.
- 5.3** OAH shall make reasonable efforts to assign work, schedule hearings, and establish administrative processes in a manner that maximizes the availability of alternate schedules and compressed work week schedules while continuing to meet the agency's strategic and/or operational needs. A request for an alternate schedule or compressed work week will not be unreasonably denied.
- 5.4** An existing alternate schedule, compressed work week schedule, or specific scheduled day off can be changed by either the employee or the employer with at least 7 days' written notice. If the agency initiates the change, the reason shall be provided to the ALJ in writing. The notice requirement can be waived only by mutual agreement.
- 5.5** Exchange time is a benefit in the form of time off for extraordinary hours worked on authorized activities, including but not limited to case-related work or authorized special projects. It is intended to encourage retention of valuable employees without impeding services to the public or preventing the office from accomplishing its mission.

- A. Employees who are compensated on a salary basis and have worked for OAH for at least 12 months are eligible to receive exchange time, unless otherwise stated in this article. Employees who are on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) will not be eligible to receive exchange time during the PIP period.
- B. An eligible employee will qualify for exchange time if they have worked or in paid status at least fifteen percent (15%) over their scheduled hours on authorized activities in aggregate over two or more consecutive pay periods.

For purposes of this article only: hours worked or in paid status will include time on authorized paid leave or holidays. Unauthorized leave taken, leave with out pay and any exchange time taken will not count as hours worked/in paid status, but will count as hours scheduled.

The scheduled hours in a pay period for full time employees will be based on a 5 days per week, 8 hours per day schedule, regardless if the employee has a non-standard schedule approved. Scheduled hours for part-time employees will be based on their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) percentage.

Weekdays in Pay Period	8 hours per day @ 100% FTE	6 hours per day @ 75% FTE	4 hours per day @ 50% FTE
10	80	60	40
11	88	66	44
12	96	72	48

By example: If there are 11 weekdays in a pay period, the number of scheduled hours will be 88. If a full-time ALJ has two consecutive pay periods of 11 weekdays each, they have 22 days @ 8 hours per day 176 hours scheduled. 176 hours scheduled times 15% = 26.4 hours over. The ALJ would qualify for exchange time if they have at least 15% more hours than 176, which would be a minimum of 202.4 hours worked/in paid status.  $176 + 26.4 = 202.4$  hours.

- C. Exchange time will be awarded in 1-hour increments for up to half of the hours worked/in pay status in excess of the employee’s schedule. By example: An ALJ works 202.4 hours in two consecutive pay periods, in which there were 176 hours available to work.  $202.4 - 176 = 26.4$  hours over.  $26.4$  hours times 50% = 13.2 hours as the maximum award. Since exchange time is awarded in 1-hour increments, the employee is eligible to be awarded 13 hours of exchange time. Exchange time can be used in 0.1 hour increments, and will follow the same procedure for requesting and receiving approval as vacation leave.
- D. Employees who meet both the eligibility requirements in (1) above and the work hours’ qualifications in (2) above will be awarded exchange time upon the request of the ALJ to their Deputy Chief ALJ. The ALJ must request



exchange time within thirty (30) days after the end of the two or more consecutive pay periods the ALJ has worked the qualifying hours. The Deputy Chief ALJ will confirm with the ALJ's supervisor or Division Chief that the ALJ making the request meets the eligibility requirements, and that their hours meet the qualifications, before approving the request for an award. The agency will establish and publish procedures to facilitate the requesting, approval, and awarding of exchange time.

- E. Exchange time must be used within 3 months from the date it is awarded. Exchange time has no cash liquidation value and cannot be transferred between agencies.
- F. To avoid the need for requesting exchange time, upon an employee's request the employee's supervisor may grant the employee time off from work without having to take paid leave.

## **ARTICLE 6 EMPLOYEE FILES**

**6.1** There will be one (1) official personnel file maintained by the Employer for each employee. The location of personnel files will be determined by the employing agency. Each employee shall have a supervisory file, kept by the employee's first-line supervisor. Employee medical files will be kept separate and confidential in accordance with state and federal law.

### **6.2 Examination of Employee Files**

An employee may examine their own personnel file, supervisory file, and medical file(s). The Employer will provide access to the file as soon as possible but not more than fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of a request. An employee will not be required to take leave to review these files. Written authorization from the employee is required before any representative of the employee will be granted access to these files. The employee and/or representative may not remove or copy any contents; however, an employee may provide a written rebuttal to any information in the files that they consider objectionable. The employee and/or representative may request copies of documents maintained in these files. The Employer may charge a reasonable fee for copying any materials beyond the first copy requested by the employee or their representative.

### **6.3 Personnel Files**

A copy of any material to be placed in an employee's personnel file that might lead to disciplinary action will be provided to the employee. An employee may have documents relevant to their work performance placed in their personnel file.

- A. Adverse material or information related to alleged misconduct that is determined to be false and all such information in situations where the employee has been fully exonerated of wrongdoing will be removed from personnel files. However, the Employer may retain this information in a

legal defense file and it will only be used or released when required by a regulatory agency (acting in their regulatory capacity), in the defense of an appeal or legal action, or as otherwise required by law.

- B. Upon the request of the employee, disciplinary documents may be removed from an employee's personnel file after three (3) years if:
  - 1. The employee submits a written request for its removal; and
  - 2. The agency determines that circumstances do not warrant a longer retention period; and
  - 3. There have been no documented performance deficiencies.
- C. Once a disciplinary letter has been removed, the information removed will not be used in subsequent disciplinary actions, unless mutually agreed otherwise.
- D. Nothing in this Section will prevent the Employer from agreeing to an earlier removal date

#### **6.4 Supervisory Files**

Supervisory files will be purged of the previous year's job performance information following completion of the annual performance evaluation, unless circumstances warrant otherwise. Upon request by the employee, the supervisor will share why the materials were not purged.

#### **6.5 Medical files will be kept separate and confidential in accordance with state and federal law.**

### **ARTICLE 7 TELEWORKING**

Pursuant to Executive Order 16-07, the Employer may allow employees to work from an alternate worksite.

**7.1** Telework is a privilege that allows employees to perform their job duties at an alternate worksite, normally their home rather than their official duty station, OAH facility, other state agency or public venue. Telework is performed either on an as needed basis, regular part-time, or regular full-time basis. Offering the option to telework may help OAH recruit and retain a talented workforce, conserve OAH resources and promote ALJ work-life balance.

**7.2** OAH shall make reasonable efforts to assign work, schedule hearings, and establish administrative processes so as to maximize the availability of a variety of telework options to ALJs, while continuing to meet the agency's strategic and/or operational needs. OAH may establish reasonable policies and procedures governing when and how a telework schedule will be initially approved, and defining the standards that

must be met in order to continue teleworking (collectively referred to in this article as the “teleworking requirements”). These requirements must be reasonably related to an ALJ’s job, such as requirements regarding the alternate worksite, confidentiality, technology, or the agency’s strategic and/or operational needs.

- 7.3** An ALJ may request a telework schedule at any time, subject to the limitations in 7.7 below. OAH will not unreasonably deny the request, and the reasons for any denial will be provided to the ALJ in writing. OAH may offer teleworking authorization to an ALJ at any time, even if the ALJ has not made a request. It shall be considered reasonable to deny teleworking authorization to an ALJ who is in their first six months of employment with OAH. It shall be considered reasonable to limit the number of employees who are approved to telework at alternate worksites located outside the geographical area that includes Washington plus any counties in Oregon or Idaho that share a border with Washington.
- 7.4** The Employer may require any teleworker, including full-time teleworkers, to report to an OAH office or other reasonable location for meetings, trainings or other events in the discretion of the Employer with reasonable notice. In addition, OAH may require an ALJ who is authorized to telework to temporarily change their telework schedule and report to an OAH office or other reasonable location for a period of five (5) consecutive business days or less, due to caseload-related reasons, or mandatory in-person training. Except in emergent circumstances, OAH will give the ALJ at least seven (7) days’ notice and the reason for the temporary change in writing.
- 7.5** OAH may cancel or modify an ALJ’s authorization to telework to respond to concerns about the ALJ’s ability to meet one or more of the teleworking requirements, or to respond to changes in strategic/operational needs. Unless circumstances require immediate rescission, OAH shall provide the ALJ fourteen (14) days’ written notice prior to the cancellation or modification of a telework agreement. OAH will notify the ALJ of the reason(s) for the cancellation or modification in writing.
- 7.6** An ALJ whose telework privileges have been cancelled or modified by OAH without their agreement may request reinstatement of telework privileges no more than once every thirty (30) days. If the OAH determines that the issues which led to the change in the telework agreement have been resolved, the ALJ’s telework privilege will be reinstated.
- 7.7** An ALJ will have seven (7) days from the date of the notice of denial of telework under 8.3, cancellation or modification of telework under 8.5, or denial or reinstatement of telework under 8.6, to submit a written Request for Review of the action to the Chief ALJ or the Chief’s Designee. The Chief ALJ or Chief’s Designee shall issue a written decision on the request within 7 days of receipt.
- 7.8** OAH may need to revoke telework privileges for business needs that are not related to an ALJ’s performance or a violation of the teleworking requirements. OAH will

determine when business needs demand revocation of telework privileges and will provide any affected ALJ with at least fourteen (14) days' notice, except in emergent circumstances.

- 7.9 Substantive decisions by the Chief under Section 7.8 are not subject to the Grievance [Article 19](#). The remainder of this article is subject to the Grievance Article 19.

## **ARTICLE 8 LEAVE**

The employer will follow all laws, regulations, and policies governing employee leave, including but not limited to Family Medical Leave Act leave, Shared Leave, Paid Family and Medical Leave, and Pregnancy Disability Leave.

## **ARTICLE 9 AGENCY POLICIES**

- 9.1 The employer agrees, prior to making any change in written agency policy that is a mandatory subject of bargaining not otherwise covered by this Agreement, to notify the Union and satisfy our collective bargaining obligation in accordance with this agreement and all applicable law.
- 9.2 The agency will provide to the Union any policies or updates to existing policies affecting the represented employees at least seven (7) calendar days prior to implementation.

## **ARTICLE 10 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

ALJs may engage in outside employment so long as it does not interfere with the performance of their duties or result in a conflict of interest as determined by the Chief ALJ. ALJs will notify and receive approval from the Chief ALJ or designee per agency policy before engaging in any outside employment.

## **ARTICLE 11 SAFETY AND HEALTH**

- 11.1 The Employer, employee and Union have a significant responsibility for workplace safety and health.
- A. The Employer will provide a work environment in accordance with safety standards established by the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA).

- B. Employees will comply with all safety and health practices and standards established by the Employer. Employees will contribute to a healthy workplace, including not knowingly exposing co-workers and the public to conditions that would jeopardize their health or the health of others. When employees self-report a potentially contagious health condition the Employer may direct the employee to telework or use leave in accordance with Article 13, Inclement Weather and Suspended Operations.
  - C. The Union will work cooperatively with the Employer on safety and health-related matters and encourage employees to work in a safe manner.
  - D. When an employee has concerns about access to communications when working away from their duty station, the employee will bring the issue to their supervisor for resolution.
- 11.2** The Employer will determine and provide the required safety devices and protective items for use by employees. The Employer will provide employees with orientation and/or training to perform their jobs safely. If necessary, training will be provided to employees on the safe operation of the equipment prior to use.
- 11.3** The agency will form joint safety committees in accordance with WISHA requirements at each of the employers permanent work facilities where there are eleven (11) or more employees physically on site. Safety committees will be composed and meetings will be conducted in accordance with [WAC 296-800-13020](#). Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the appropriate Appointing Authority for review and action, as necessary. The Appointing Authority or designee will report follow-up action/information to the Safety Committee.
- 11.4 Ergonomic Assessments**  
At the request of the employee, the Employer will ensure that an ergonomic assessment of the employee's workstation at an OAH location is completed. Solutions to identified issues will be implemented within available resources consistent with agency policy.
- 11.5** The employer will provide as much flexibility as possible to accommodate employees, including providing telework options, as a result of an outbreak of a communicable disease, recognizing that individual employee circumstances will differ.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENDED OPERATIONS**

Emergency situations adversely affecting OAH operations, property, public safety or health, or the well-being of individuals, may require suspended operations or closure of OAH facilities. The provisions of OAH Policy No. 406, Inclement Weather and Suspended Operations provide the process and procedures for all employees of the agency in such

emergency situations. ALJs are subject to this policy and will be required to follow its provisions.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**13.1** The Employee Assistance Program within the Department of Enterprise Services is responsible for the employee assistance program established in accordance with [RCW 41.04.700](#) through 730. Individual employees' participation in the Employee Assistance Program and all individually identifiable information gathered in the process of conducting the program will be held in strict confidence; except that the

Employer may be provided with the following information about employees referred by the Employer due to poor job performance:

- A. Whether or not the referred employee made an appointment;
  - B. The date and time the employee arrived and departed;
  - C. Whether the employee agreed to follow the advice of counselors; and
  - D. Whether further appointments were scheduled.
- 13.2** Participation or nonparticipation by any employee in the Employee Assistance Program will not be a factor in any decision affecting an employee's job security, promotional opportunities, disciplinary action, or other employment rights. However, nothing relieves employees from the responsibility of performing their jobs in an acceptable manner.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **UNION ACTIVITIES**

#### **14.1 Union Representatives**

- A. "Union Representatives" includes both Stewards (OAH Employees identified by the Union as Stewards) and WFSE staff.
- B. Notification and Recognition
  - 1. The Union will provide the Employer with a written list of Union Representatives, their geographic jurisdictions and the appropriate contacts for each office within thirty (30) calendar days from the effective date of this Agreement.. The Union will maintain the list.
  - 2. The Employer will recognize any Union Representative on the list. The Employer will not recognize an employee as a Union Representative if their name does not appear on the list.

3. The Union will provide written notice to the Employer of any changes within thirty (30) calendar days of the changes.
4. Union Stewards must provide notice to their supervisor to prepare for and/or attend any meeting for representational purposes during their work hours, excluding successor agreement negotiations provided in 15.5 below. All notices must include the approximate amount of time the Union Steward(s) expects the activity to take. Time spent preparing for, traveling to and from, and attending meetings during the Union Steward's non-work hours will not be considered as time worked. Union Stewards will record time spent on union activities in accordance with OAH policy and practice, using the OAH Timekeeping system. Timekeeping codes to facilitate these records will be provided by the OAH. If the amount of time a Union Steward spends performing representational activities is unduly affecting their ability to accomplish assigned duties, the Employer will not continue to release the employee and the Union will be notified.
5. Union Stewards or Representatives, upon request from an employee, can provide representation during a meeting called by the Employer, consistent with Article 18, Investigations, and if the employee reasonably believes discipline could result in a meeting with the Employer, consistent with Article 19, Discipline.
6. Union Stewards may not use state vehicles to travel to and from a work site in order to perform representation activities, unless authorized by the OAH.

C. Access

1. Union representatives may have access to the Employer's offices or facilities in accordance with agency policy to carry out representational activities.
2. Union representatives will notify OAH Human Resources prior to their arrival and will not interrupt the normal operations of OAH.
3. Union representatives and bargaining unit employees may also meet in non-work areas, including hearing rooms, during the employee's meal periods and rest periods and before and after their normal work hours.

**14.2 Use of State Facilities, Resources and Equipment**

A. Meeting Space and Facilities

The Employer's offices and facilities may be used by the Union to hold meetings, subject to the agency's policy, availability of the space and with prior authorization of the Employer.

B. Supplies and Equipment

The Union and employees covered by this Agreement will not use state-purchased supplies or equipment to conduct union business or representational activities, except that they may use a telephone or similar device for persons with disabilities if there is no cost to the Employer, the call is brief and it does not disrupt or distract from OAH business.

C. Electronic Communications

The Union and employees covered by this Agreement will not use state-owned or operated electronic communications to communicate with one another for Union or non-work purposes, except as provided in this agreement. Employees may use state operated e-mail to request union representation. Union Representatives may use state owned/operated equipment to communicate with the affected employees and/or the Employer for the exclusive purpose of administration of this Agreement. Such use will:

1. Result in little or no cost to the Employer;
2. Be brief in duration and frequency;
3. Not interfere with the performance of their official duties;
4. Not distract from the conduct of state business;
5. Not disrupt other state employees and not obligate other employees to make a personal use of state resources;
6. Not compromise the security or integrity of state information or software; and
7. Not include general communication and/or solicitation with employees.

The Union and its Union Stewards will not use the above referenced state equipment for union organizing, internal union business, advocating for or against the Union in an election or any other purpose prohibited by the Executive Ethics Board. Communication that occurs over state-owned equipment is the property of the Employer and may be subject to public disclosure.

### **14.3 Information Requests**

- A. The Employer agrees to provide the Union, upon written request, access to materials and information necessary for the Union to fulfill its statutory responsibility to administer this Agreement. All union information requests will be clearly labeled as such and will be sent to the OAH Human Resources Office at [OAHHR@oah.wa.gov](mailto:OAHHR@oah.wa.gov) with a copy to the OFM LRS at [labor.relations@OFM.WA.GOV](mailto:labor.relations@OFM.WA.GOV).



- B. The Employer will acknowledge receipt of the information request and will provide the Union with a date by which the information is anticipated to be provided.
- C. When the Union submits a request for information that the Employer believes is unclear or unreasonable, or which requires the creation or compilation of a report, the Employer will contact the Union staff representative and the parties will discuss the relevance, necessity and costs associated with the request and the amount the Union will pay for receipt of the information.

#### **14.4 Distribution and/or Posting of Material**

An employee will have access to their work site for the purpose of distributing information to other bargaining unit employees provided:

- A. The employee is off-duty;
- B. The distribution does not disrupt the Employer's operation; and
- C. The distribution will normally occur via desk drops or mailboxes, as determined by the Employer. In those cases where circumstances do not permit distribution by those methods, alternative areas such as lunchrooms, break areas and/or other space mutually agreed upon will be used.
- D. The employee must notify the Employer in advance of their intent to distribute information.
- E. Distribution will not occur more than twice per month, unless agreed to in advance by the Employer.
- F. The Employer will provide bulletin board(s) or space on existing bulletin boards in convenient places. Material posted on the bulletin board will be appropriate to the workplace, politically non-partisan, in compliance with state ethic laws, and identified as union literature. Union communications will not be posted in any other location in the agency. The Union will remove material from the bulletin board when it is no longer applicable or in poor condition.

#### **14.5 Successor Agreement Negotiations**

The Employer will approve paid release time in aggregate of forty (40) days for all employee bargaining team members for formal negotiations. Upon exhaustion of this bank, the Union may request the parties meet and discuss additional paid release time for Union team members. If agreeable, the Employer will approve leave for all remaining formal negotiation sessions and for all travel to and from the sessions for Union team members provided the absence of the employee for negotiations does not create significant and unusual coverage issues. No exchange time will be incurred as a result of negotiations and/or travel to and from negotiations.

#### **14.6 Access To New Employee Orientation**

Within ninety (90) days of a new employee's start date in a Union bargaining unit position, the Employer will provide access to the employee during the employee's regular work hours to present information about the Union. This access will be provided on the newly-hired employee's work time, at the employee's regular worksite, or at a location mutually agreed to by the Employer and the Union and will be for no less than thirty (30) minutes. Union meetings with new employees will include only the new bargaining unit employees, and union representatives, and any other union-designated employee, unless mutually agreed otherwise. The Union Steward and other union-designated employee will also remain in paid status when the orientation is done in a group setting; a providing Union orientation in individual meetings will be in non-work status, unless otherwise agreed. Management employees will remain strictly neutral regarding attendance at the meetings and their content. No employee will be required to attend the meetings or presentations given by the Union.

#### **14.7 Demand to Bargain – Release Time and Travel**

- A. The Employer will approve paid release time for up to four (4) employee representatives who are scheduled to work during the time negotiations are being conducted. The Employer will approve compensatory time, vacation leave, exchange time or leave without pay for additional employee representatives provided the absence of the employee does not create significant and unusual coverage issues. The Union will provide the Employer with the names of its employee representatives at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the date of the meeting.
- B. The Employer will approve compensatory time, vacation leave, exchange time or leave without pay for employee representatives to prepare for and to travel to and from negotiations.
- C. No overtime, compensatory time or exchange time will be incurred as a result of negotiations, preparation for and/or travel to and from negotiations.
- D. The Union is responsible for paying any travel or per diem expenses of employee representatives. Employee representatives may not use state vehicles to travel to and from a bargaining session, unless authorized by the agency for business purposes.

#### **14.8 Union Electronic Access to Employees:**

Given the number of employees who telework exclusively, the employer is in agreement to extend the rights afforded under the CBA via electronic means. For this purpose and with mutual agreement with an agency, the union may submit informational fliers to the agency HR department's designated point of contact up to twice per month for distribution by the agency to teleworking employees via the state email system. The Union will provide the HR point of contact with a minimum of three (3) business days' notice to distribute the flyer. Employees who are teleworking may use state issued computers and networks, in lieu of a physical

workspace, for the purpose of receiving and reviewing this information. The use of the state's electronic email system must remain de minimus and only when physical access is not available. This does not extend use of the state's email system to the union for general communication purposes beyond the provisions of this article. The terms of this agreement apply when physical access to a member(s) is not otherwise safe or available. Communication that occurs over state-owned equipment is the property of the Employer and may be subject to agency review and/or public disclosure.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **UNION DUES DEDUCTION AND STATUS REPORTS**

#### **15.1 Notification to Employees**

The Employer will inform new, transferred, promoted, or demoted employees in writing prior to appointment into positions included in the bargaining unit(s) of the Union's exclusive representation status. Upon appointment to a bargaining unit position, the Employer will furnish the employees with membership materials provided by the Union. The Employer will inform employees in writing if they are subsequently appointed to a position that is not in a bargaining unit.

#### **15.2 Union Deduction**

- A. Within thirty (30) days from when the Union provides written notice of employee's authorization for deduction or revocation in accordance with the terms and conditions of their signed membership card, the Employer will deduct or revoke deductions from the employee's salary an amount equal to the dues required to be a member of the Union. The Employer will provide payments for the deductions to the Union at the Union's official headquarters each pay period.
- B. Forty-five (45) calendar days prior to any change in dues, the Union will provide the Office of Financial Management/State Human Resources, Labor Relations Section the percentage and maximum dues to be deducted from the employee's salary.

#### **15.3 Voluntary Deductions**

- A. People
  1. The Employer agrees to deduct from the wages of any employee who is a member of the Union deduction for the PEOPLE program. Written authorizations must be requested in writing by the employee and may be revoked by the employee at any time by giving written notice to both the Employer and the Union. The Employer agrees to remit electronically, on each state payday, any deductions made to the Union together with an electronic report showing:
    - a. Employee name;
    - b. Personnel number;
    - c. Amount deducted; and

- d. Deduction code.
  2. The parties agree this section satisfies the Employer's obligations and provides for the deduction authorized under [RCW 41.04.230](#).
- B. Trustmark Universal Life Insurance with Long Term Care  
The Employer agrees to deduct from the wages of an employee who is a member of the Union deductions for the Trustmark Universal Life Insurance with Long Term Care. Written authorizations must be provided. Authorizations may be revoked by the employee at any time by giving written notice to the Employer. The Employer agrees to remit electronically, on each state payday, any deductions made to Trustmark together with an electronic report showing:
1. Employee name;
  2. Personnel number;
  3. Amount deducted; and
  4. Deduction code.

#### **15.4 Status Reports**

- A. No later than the tenth (10th) and twenty-fifth (25th) of each month, the Employer will provide the Union with a report in an electronic format of the following data, if maintained by the Employer, for employees in the bargaining unit:
1. Personnel number;
  2. Employee name;
  3. Mailing address;
  4. Personnel area code and title;
  5. Organization unit code, abbreviation and title;
  6. Work county code and title;
  7. Work location street (if available);
  8. Work location city (if available);
  9. Work phone number;
  10. Work e-mail address (if available);
  11. Employee group;
  12. Job class code and title;

13. Appointment date;
  14. Bargaining unit code and title;
  15. Position number;
  16. Pay scale group;
  17. Pay scale level;
  18. Employment percent;
  19. Seniority date;
  20. Separation date;
  21. Special pay code;
  22. Total salary from which union dues is calculated
  23. Deduction wage type;
  24. Deduction amount;
  25. Overtime eligibility designation;
  26. Retirement benefit plan; and
  27. Action reason, title, and effective date (including entering or leaving the bargaining unit and starting or stopping dues).
- B. Information provided pursuant to this Section will be maintained by the Union in confidence according to the law.
- C. The Union will indemnify the Employer for any violations of employee privacy committed by the Union pursuant to this Section.

### **15.5 Revocation**

An employee may revoke their authorization for payroll deduction of payments to the Union by written notice request to the Employer and the Union in accordance with the terms and conditions of their signed membership card. Upon receipt by the Employer of confirmation from the Union that the terms of the employee's authorization for payroll deduction revocation have been met, every effort will be made to end the deduction effective on the first payroll, and not later than the second payroll., after receipt by the Employer of confirmation from the Union that the terms of the employee's signed membership card regarding dues deduction revocation have been met.

**15.6 Indemnification**

The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the Employer harmless from all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that arise against the Employer for or on account of compliance with this Article and any and all issues related to the deduction of dues or fees.

**ARTICLE 16**

**UNION MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION COMMITTEES**

- 16.1** The Employer and the Union endorse the goal of a constructive and cooperative relationship. To promote and foster such a relationship, the parties agree to establish a structure of joint union-management communication committees, for the sharing of information and concerns and discussing possible resolution(s) in a collaborative manner.
- 16.2** A statewide union-management communication committee will be established within 60 days of executing this Agreement. The statewide committee will be composed of up to four (4) representatives selected by the Union and up to four (4) employer representatives. Committee meetings will be conducted quarterly, unless agreed otherwise.
- 16.3** The Union will provide the Employer with the names of its committee members at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the date of the meeting in order to facilitate the release of employees. Union-designated employees will be granted reasonable time during their normal working hours, as determined by the Employer, to prepare, and attend union management communication committee meetings.
- 16.4** Union-designated employees attending committee meetings during their work time will have no loss in pay. Meetings will be conducted by video conference, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.
- 16.5** All committee meetings will be scheduled on mutually acceptable dates and times

**ARTICLE 17**

**INVESTIGATIONS**

- 17.1** The Employer has the authority to determine the method of conducting investigations. Upon request, if an investigation will last longer than ninety (90) days from the date the employee was notified of the investigation, the Employer will provide an explanation to the employee and the Union of the current status of the investigation (for example: interviews still being conducted, drafting of investigative report, waiting for analysis of data). At the conclusion of any investigation where the Employer elects not to take disciplinary action, the employee will be provided with a notification that the investigation is completed and that no discipline will be imposed.

## **17.2 Investigatory Interviews**

- A. Upon request, an employee has the right to a union representative at an investigatory interview. Investigatory interviews will be identified as such. A meeting with a supervisor that includes discussion with a supervisor of about performance is not an investigatory interview. If the requested representative is not reasonably available, the employee will select another representative who is available and not delay the meeting. Employees seeking representation are responsible for contacting their representative.
- B. The role of the union representative in regard to Employer-initiated investigations is to provide assistance and counsel to the employee and not interfere with the Employer's right to conduct the investigation. Every effort will be made to cooperate with the investigation. The Union representative may call for a recess during the interview to consult with the employee for representational purposes.
- C. Employees who are the subject of an investigatory interview will be informed of the general nature of the allegation(s) before the employee is asked to respond to questions concerning the allegation(s).
- D. If an investigator requests that an employee sign a statement, the employee may review the statement and submit corrections, if any. The employee will sign the statement to acknowledge its accuracy when no corrections are necessary or when the investigator revises the statement to accept the employee's corrections.

## **ARTICLE 18 DISCIPLINE**

### **18.1 Disciplinary Action**

1. Employees are subject to discipline and termination, for just cause, by the Chief ALJ. The following actions will be considered discipline and subject to the grievance process provided for in the agreement: reduction in pay, suspension without pay, demotion, or termination. Discipline is subject to the grievance article.
2. Written reprimands are subject to the grievance procedure to Step 2 only.
3. Oral reprimands are not subject to any grievance procedures.
4. The principles of progressive discipline shall be used.

### **18.2 Non-disciplinary Actions**

1. Layoffs, temporary layoffs and/or furloughs, or other reductions in pay for budgetary purposes are not considered discipline and are not

subject to the provisions of this article. The removal of a telework agreement is not a disciplinary action.

2. Corrective action, such as performance improvement plans, coaching, counseling, evaluations, and other non-disciplinary communications between the Employer and the Employee are not subject to any grievance procedures.

### **18.3 Pre-disciplinary Notice and Meeting**

Except when the nature of the problem requires immediate termination, the Employer shall provide the Employee with a written pre-disciplinary notice and an opportunity to be heard. Such notice shall include the facts upon which the contemplated discipline is based, the allegations, the level of disciplinary action being considered, and the date and time set for a meeting where the Employee is afforded the opportunity to refute such allegations and/or present mitigating circumstances to the Chief ALJ or designee. The Employee will continue to work after receipt of the pre-disciplinary notice unless otherwise specified in the notice. Employees have a right to representation throughout this process as reflected in [Article 17](#), Investigations.

- 18.4** When disciplining an employee, the Employer will make a reasonable effort to protect the privacy of the employee.

- 18.5** When formal disciplinary action as defined in 1.1 is taken against an ALJ, the Chief ALJ shall provide a disciplinary letter to the Employee, which states the reasons for such action and the discipline issued. The parties agree this disciplinary letter shall constitute the “written reasons” contemplated in [RCW 34.12.030\(4\)](#).

### **18.6 Final Disposition**

Any required reporting of disciplinary matters to the Washington State Bar Association or any State’s bar association where the employee is licensed shall be limited to final disposition only unless otherwise required by law or the Rules of Professional Conduct.

## **ARTICLE 19 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

- 19.1** The Union and the Employer agree that it is in the best interest of all parties to resolve disputes at the earliest opportunity and at the lowest level. The Union and the Employer encourage problem resolution between employees and management and are committed to assisting in resolution of disputes as soon as possible. In the event a dispute is not resolved in an informal manner, this Article provides a formal process for problem resolution.



## 19.2 Terms and Requirements

### A. Grievance Definition

A grievance is an allegation by an employee or a group of employees that there has been a violation, misapplication, or misinterpretation of this Agreement, which occurred during the term of this Agreement. The term “grievant” as used in this Article includes the term “grievants.”

### B. Filing a Grievance

Grievances may be filed by the Union on behalf of an employee or on behalf of a group of employees. If the Union does so, it will set forth the name of the employee or the names of the group of employees. The Union may add an employee to a group grievance who was not included in the original filing if it does so prior to the Step 2 meeting and if the employee is similarly situated to the other grievants. If the Union makes an information request in order to identify additional employees to include in a group grievance and the Employer is unable to respond before the Step 2 meeting, the meeting will be postponed.

### C. Computation of Time

The time limits in this Article must be strictly adhered to unless mutually modified in writing. Days, for purposes of this article and all articles within this agreement, are calendar days, and will be counted by excluding the first day and including the last day of timelines. When the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the last day will be the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday. Transmittal of grievances, appeals and responses will be in writing.

### D. Failure to Meet Timelines

Failure by the Union to comply with the timelines will result in the automatic withdrawal of the grievance. Failure by the Employer to comply with the timelines will entitle the Union to move the grievance to the next step of the procedure.

### E. Contents

The written grievance must include the following information:

1. A statement of the pertinent facts surrounding the nature of the grievance;
2. The date upon which the incident occurred;
3. The specific article and section of the Agreement violated;
4. The steps taken to informally resolve the grievance and the individuals involved in the attempted resolution;
5. The specific remedy requested;

6. The name of the grievant; and
7. The name of the Union representative.

Failure by the Union to provide a copy of a grievance or the request for the next step with the Human Resources Office or to describe the steps taken to informally resolve the grievance at the time of filing will not be the basis for invalidating the grievance.

- F. Modifications  
No newly alleged violations and/or remedies may be made after the initial written grievance is filed, except by written mutual agreement.
- G. Resolution  
If the Employer provides the requested remedy or a mutually agreed-upon alternative, the grievance will be considered resolved and may not be moved to the next step.
- H. Withdrawal  
A grievance may be withdrawn at any time.
- I. Resubmission  
If terminated, resolved or withdrawn, a grievance cannot be resubmitted.
- J. Pay  
Grievant(s) and designated Union Representatives will be allowed reasonable release time to attend grievance meetings.
- K. Group Grievances  
No more than five (5) grievants and two (2) Union Representatives, unless agreed otherwise, will be permitted to attend a single grievance meeting.
- L. Consolidation  
The Employer may consolidate grievances arising out of the same set of facts.
- M. Bypass  
Any of the steps in this procedure may be bypassed with mutual written consent of the parties involved at the time the bypass is sought.
- N. Grievance Files  
Written grievances and responses will be maintained separately from the personnel files of the employees. Should the Employer determine that the separately maintained grievance file is responsive to a request pursuant to [RCW 42.56](#), it will provide a minimum of ten (10) days notice to the Union and the grievant prior to release.

- O. Mentoring  
With the agreement of the Employer, Union Stewards will be allowed to observe a Management-scheduled grievance meeting for the purpose of mentoring and training. The Employer will approve exchange time, vacation leave or leave without pay for the Union Stewards to attend the meeting.

### 19.3 Filing and Processing

- A. Filing and Informal Resolution Period  
A grievance must be filed within twenty-eight (28) days of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance or the date the grievant knew or could reasonably have known of the occurrence. This twenty-eight (28) day period will be used to attempt to informally resolve the dispute.

- B. Processing  
**Step 1 – Human Resources:**  
If the issue is not resolved informally, the Union may present a written grievance to the Human Resources Office within the twenty-eight (28) day period described above. The Human Resources Manager or designee will meet or confer by telephone with a Union Representative and the grievant within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the grievance, and will respond in writing to the Union within fifteen (15) days after the meeting.

**Step 2 – Chief Administrative Law Judge:**  
If the grievance is not resolved at Step 1, the Union may move it to Step 2 by filing it with the Chief Administrative Law Judge within fifteen (15) days of the Union’s receipt of the Step 1 decision. The Chief ALJ or designee will meet or confer by telephone with a Union Representative and the grievant within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the appeal, and will respond in writing to the Union within fifteen (15) days after the meeting.

**Step 3 – Pre-Arbitration Review Meetings or Mediation:**  
If the grievance is not resolved at Step 2, the Union may request either a pre-arbitration review meeting (PARM) or mediation, as follows.

A PARM may be requested by filing the written grievance including a copy of all previous responses and supporting documentation with the LRS at [labor.relations@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:labor.relations@ofm.wa.gov) with a copy to the AGO’s Human Resource Office at [OAHHR@OAH.WA.GOV](mailto:OAHHR@OAH.WA.GOV) within thirty (30) days of the Union’s receipt of the Step 2 decision.

Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of all the required information, the LRS will discuss with the Union whether a PARM will be scheduled with the LRS, an AGO representative, and the Union’s staff representative to review and attempt to settle the dispute. If the parties are unable to reach agreement to conduct a meeting, the LRS will notify the Union in writing that no PARM will be scheduled. If the parties agree to conduct a meeting,

within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request, a PARM will be scheduled. The meeting will be conducted at a mutually agreeable time.

The proceedings of the PARM will not be reported or recorded in any manner, except for agreements that may be reached by the parties during the course of the meeting. Statements made by or to any party or other participant in the meeting may not later be introduced as evidence, may not be made known to an arbitrator or hearings examiner at a hearing, or may not be construed for any purpose as an admission against interest, unless they are independently admissible.

ALTERNATIVELY:

If the grievance is not resolved at Step 2, the Union may file a request for mediation with PERC in accordance with [WAC 391-55-020](#), with a copy to OFM Labor Relations Section (LRS) by filing the written grievance including a copy of all previous responses and supporting documentation with the LRS at [labor.relations@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:labor.relations@ofm.wa.gov) with a copy to the OAH Human Resource Office at [OAHHR@OAH.WA.GOV](mailto:OAHHR@OAH.WA.GOV) within thirty (30) days of the Union's receipt of the Step 2 decision.

The proceedings of the Mediation will not be reported or recorded in any manner, except for agreements that may be reached by the parties during the course of the meeting.

**Step 4 – Arbitration:**

If the grievance is not resolved at Step 3, or the LRS notifies the Union in writing that no PARM will be scheduled, the Union may file a request for arbitration. The demand to arbitrate the dispute must be filed with the American Arbitration Association (AAA) within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the mediation session or PARM, or receipt of the notice that no PARM will be scheduled.

C. Selecting an Arbitrator

The parties will select an arbitrator by mutual agreement or by alternately striking names supplied by the AAA, and will follow the Labor Arbitration Rules of the AAA unless they agree otherwise in writing.

D. Authority of the Arbitrator

1. The arbitrator will:
  - a. Have no authority to rule contrary to, add to, subtract from, or modify any of the provisions of this Agreement;
  - b. Be limited in their decision to the grievance issue(s) set forth in the original written grievance unless the parties agree to modify it;

- c. Have no authority to reinstate an employee who has been terminated;
  - c. Not make any back wages award that provides an employee with compensation for any period beyond the date of the arbitration decision; and
  - d. Not make any award that provides an employee with compensation greater than would have resulted had there been no violation of this Agreement; and
  - e. Not have the authority to order the Employer to modify their staffing levels.
2. The arbitrator will hear arguments on and decide issues of arbitrability before the first day of arbitration at a time convenient for the parties, through written briefs, immediately prior to hearing the case on its merits, or as part of the entire hearing and decision-making process. If the issue of arbitrability is argued prior to the first day of arbitration, it may be argued in writing or by telephone, at the discretion of the arbitrator. Although the decision may be made orally, it will be put in writing and provided to the parties.
  3. The decision of the arbitrator will be final and binding upon the Union, the Employer and the grievant.

E. Arbitration Costs

1. The expenses and fees of the arbitrator and the cost (if any) of the hearing room will be borne by the non-prevailing party. In any decision where relief is only granted in part, the expenses and fees of the arbitrator will be shared equally by the parties.
2. If the arbitration hearing is postponed or cancelled because of one party, that party will bear the cost of the postponement or cancellation. The costs of any mutually agreed upon postponements or cancellations will be shared equally by the parties.
3. If either party desires a record of the arbitration, a court reporter may be used. If that party purchases a transcript, a copy will be provided to the arbitrator free of charge. If the other party desires a copy of the transcript, it will pay for half (1/2) of the costs of the fee for the court reporter, the original transcript and a copy. Should the Employer determine that the record of the arbitration is responsive to a request pursuant to [RCW 42.56](#), it will provide a minimum of ten (10) days notice to the Union and the grievant prior to release.

4. Each party is responsible for the costs of its staff representatives, attorneys, and all other costs related to the development and presentation of their case. Every effort will be made to avoid the presentation of repetitive witnesses. The Union is responsible for paying any travel or per diem expenses for its witnesses, the grievant and the Union Representatives.
5. If, after the arbitrator issues the award, either party files a motion with the arbitrator for reconsideration, the moving party will bear the expenses and fees of the arbitrator.

**19.4 Vesting Clause**

Grievances filed during the term of this Agreement will be processed to completion in accordance with the provisions during the same term of this Agreement.

**19.5 Alternative Remedies**

An ALJ subject to discipline who elects an alternative remedy immediately forgoes all rights to continue the grievance process described herein upon filing a petition under [RCW 34.12.030\(4\)](#).

**ARTICLE 20  
LAYOFF AND RECALL**

**20.1 Definition**

Layoff is an Employer-initiated action, taken in accordance with Section 21.3 below, that results in:

- A. Separation from service with the Employer,
- B. Employment in a class with a lower salary range,
- C. Reduction in the work year, or
- D. Reduction in the number of work hours.

**20.2** The Employer will determine the basis for, extent, effective date and the length of layoffs in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

**20.3 Basis for Layoff**

Layoffs may occur for any of the following reasons:

- A. Lack of funds;
- B. Lack of work;
- C. Good faith reorganization;

**20.4** The provisions of the layoff article does not apply to Pro Tem Administrative Law Judges. During a reduction in force of ALJs, Pro Tem ALJs will be removed from the schedule.

**20.5 Voluntary Layoff, Leave without Pay or Reduction in Hours**

- A. The Chief or designee may allow an employee to volunteer to be laid off, take leave without pay or reduce their hours of work in order to reduce layoffs. If it is necessary to limit the number of employees on unpaid leave at the same time, the Chief or designee will determine who will be granted a leave without pay and/or reduction in hours based upon staffing needs.
- B. The Chief or designee will allow an employee to volunteer to be laid off. Any volunteer for layoff shall have no formal or informal options. In those situations where an employee has volunteered to be laid off, the Employer will designate the separation of employment as a layoff for lack of work and/or lack of funds.
- C. If the appointing authority accepts the employee's voluntary request for layoff, the employee will submit a non-revocable letter stating they are accepting a voluntary layoff from state service.

**20.6 Temporary Reduction of Work Hours, Layoff – Employer Option**

- A. The Employer may temporarily reduce the work hours of an employee to no less than fifty percent of their normal hours per week due to an unanticipated loss of funding, revenue shortfall, lack of work, shortage of equipment, or other unexpected or unusual reasons. Employees will normally receive notice of seven (7) calendar days of a temporary reduction of work hours. The notice will specify the nature and anticipated duration of the temporary reduction.
- B. The Employer may temporarily layoff an employee for up to ninety (90) calendar days due to an unanticipated loss of funding, revenue shortfall, lack of work, shortage of equipment, or other unexpected or unusual reasons. Employees will normally receive notice of seven (7) calendar days of a temporary layoff. The notice will specify the nature and anticipated duration of the temporary layoff.
- C. An employee whose work hours are temporarily reduced or who is temporarily laid off will not be entitled to:
  - 1. Be paid any leave balance if the layoff was due to the lack of funds,
  - 2. Bump to any other position.
- D. A temporary reduction of work hours or layoff will not affect an employee's holiday compensation, annual increases or length of initial review period, and the employee will continue to accrue vacation and sick leave credit at their normal rate.

- E. A temporary reduction of work hours or layoff being implemented as a result of lack of work, shortage of equipment, or other unexpected or unusual reason will be in accordance with the employee's agency seniority as set out below.

**20.7 Layoff Units**

- A The layoff unit is defined as the job class statewide.

**20.8 Formal Options**

- A. Employees being laid off will be provided the following options to comparable positions within the layoff unit, in descending order, as follows:
  - 1. A funded position, within their current job classification.
  - 2. A funded filled position held by the least senior employee, within their current job classification.
  - 3. A funded vacant or filled position held by the least senior employee, at the same or lower salary range as their current job classification.

Options will be provided in descending order of salary range and one (1) progressively lower level at a time. Vacant positions will be offered prior to filled positions.

- B. For multi-employee layoffs, more than one (1) employee may be offered the same funded, vacant or filled position. In this case, the most senior employee will be appointed. Appointments will be made in descending order of seniority.

**20.9 Notification for the Union**

The Employer will notify the Union before implementing a layoff or a temporary reduction of work hours. Upon request, the Employer will discuss impacts to the bargaining unit with the Union. The discussion will not serve to delay the onset of a layoff or a temporary reduction of work hours unless the Employer elects to do so. The parties will continue to communicate through all phases of the layoff or the temporary reduction of work hours to ensure continued compliance with the Agreement.

**20.10 Notification to Employees**

- A. Except for temporary reduction in work hours and temporary layoffs as provided in Section 21.6, employees will receive written notice at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the effective layoff date. The notice will include the basis for the layoff and any options available to the employee. The Union will be provided with a copy of the notice on the same day it is provided to the employee.
- B. Except for temporary reduction in work hours and temporary layoffs as provided in Section 21.6, if the Employer chooses to implement a layoff



action without providing fifteen (15) calendar days' notice, the employee will be paid their salary for the days they would have worked had full notice been given.

- C. Employees will be provided seven (7) calendar days to accept or decline, in writing, any formal option provided to them. If the seventh (7th) calendar day does not fall on a regularly scheduled work day for the employee, the next regularly scheduled work day is considered the seventh (7th) day for purposes of accepting or declining any option provided to them. This time period will run concurrent with the fifteen (15) calendar days' notice provided by the Employer to the employee.
- D. The day that notification is given constitutes the first day of notice.

### **20.11 Seniority**

The employees "Agency Seniority Date" is the first day of employment at OAH as an Administrative Law Judge, in any capacity. The agency seniority date will not be adjusted for periods of parental leave or approved FMLA. Ties will be broken by total State government service, then by date first licensed as an attorney in any State or territory. If an ALJ returns to OAH employment after a break in service of no more than three (3) years, the Agency Seniority Date will be adjusted to account for seniority accrued at the time of prior separation.

### **20.12 Recall**

The Employer will maintain a layoff list for the line or entry ALJ job classification for which any laid off ALJ, no matter position, could be recalled from. Employees who are laid off or have been notified that they are scheduled for layoff, may have their name placed on the list. An employee will remain on the layoff lists for two years from the effective date of the qualifying action and may request to be placed on the layoff lists for which they qualify at any time within the two year period from the effective date of the layoff.

When a vacancy occurs within OAH and when there are names on the layoff list for that job classification, the Employer will fill the position in accordance with Article 3, Hiring and Appointments. An employee will be removed from the layoff list if they are certified from the list and waives the appointment to a position for that job classification two (2) times. In addition, an employee's name will be removed from the layoff list upon retirement, resignation or dismissal.

## **ARTICLE 21 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

Except as modified by this Agreement, the Employer retains all rights of management, which, in addition to all powers, duties and rights established by constitutional provision or statute, will include but not be limited to, the right to:

- A. Determine the Employer's functions, programs, organizational structure and use of technology;
- B. Determine the Employer's budget, size and composition of the Employer's workforce and the financial basis for layoffs, as well as the reasons employees will be laid-off;
- C. Direct and supervise employees, as appropriate for each employee's respective position;
- D. Take all necessary actions to carry out the mission of the Employer during emergencies;
- E. Determine the Employer's mission and strategic plans;
- F. Develop, enforce, modify or terminate any policy, procedure, manual or work method associated with the operations of the Employer;
- G. Determine or consolidate the location of operations, offices, work sites, including permanently or temporarily moving operations in whole or part to other locations;
- H. Establish or modify the workweek, daily work shift, hours of work and days off, to include flex and telework schedules;
- I. Establish work performance standards, which include, but are not limited to, the priority, quality and quantity of work;
- J. Establish, allocate, reallocate or abolish positions, and determine the skills and abilities necessary to perform the duties of such positions;
- K. Select, hire, assign, reassign, evaluate, retain, promote, demote, transfer, and temporarily or permanently lay off employees;
- L. Determine, prioritize and assign or reassign work to be performed;
- M. Determine training needs, mandatory training requirements, methods of training and employees to be trained;
- N. Discipline employees;
- O. Determine the use of contract administrative law judges for specified hearings and compensate them pursuant to [RCW 43.88](#), and direct the terms of their engagement and termination of contracts;
- P. Appoint, pursuant to [RCW 34.12.030](#), necessary administrative law judges who have a demonstrated knowledge of administrative law and procedures and shall fulfill the duties required by the enabling statute [RCW 34.12](#).

**ARTICLE 22**  
**HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AMOUNT**

- 22.1** A. For the 2021-2023 biennium, the Employer will contribute an amount equal to eighty-five percent (85%) of the total weighted average of the projected medical premium for each bargaining unit employee eligible for insurance each month, as determined by the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB). The projected medical premium is the weighted average across all plans, across all tiers.
- B. The point-of-service costs of the Classic Uniform Medical Plan (deductible, out-of-pocket maximums and co-insurance/co-payment) may not be changed for the purpose of shifting health care costs to plan participants, but may be changed from the 2014 plan under two (2) circumstances:
1. In ways to support value-based benefits designs; and
  2. To comply with or manage the impacts of federal mandates.

**Value-based benefits designs will:**

1. Be designed to achieve higher quality, lower aggregate health care services cost (as opposed to plan costs);
  2. Use clinical evidence; and
  3. Be the decision of the PEB Board.
- C. Article 22.1 (B) will expire June 30, 2023.
- 22.2** A. The Employer will pay the entire premium costs for each bargaining unit employee for dental, basic life, and any offered basic long-term disability insurance coverage. If changes to the long-term disability benefit structure occur during the life of this agreement, the Employer recognizes its obligation to bargain with the Coalition over impacts of those changes within the scope of bargaining.
- B. If the PEB Board authorizes stand-alone vision insurance coverage, then the Employer will pay the entire premium costs for each bargaining unit employee.

**22.3 Wellness**

- A. To support the statewide goal for a healthy and productive workforce, employees are encouraged to participate in a Well-Being Assessment survey. Employees will be granted work time and may use a state computer to complete the survey.

- B. The Coalition of Unions agrees to partner with the Employer to educate their members on the wellness program and encourage participation. Eligible, enrolled subscribers shall have the option to earn an annual one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) or more wellness incentive in the form of reduction in deductible or deposit into the Health Savings Account upon successful completion of required Smart Health Program activities. During the term of this Agreement, the Steering Committee created by Executive Order 13-06 shall make recommendations to the PEBB regarding changes to the wellness incentive or the elements of the Smart Health Program.

**22.4** The PEBB Program shall provide information on the Employer Sponsored Insurance Premium Payment Program on its website and in an open enrollment publication annually.

**22.5 Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement**

- A. During January 2022 and again in January 2023, the Employer will make available two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) in a medical flexible spending arrangement (FSA) account for each bargaining unit member represented by a Union in the Coalition described in [RCW 41.80.020\(3\)](#), who meets the criteria in Subsection 22.5 B below.
- B. In accordance with IRS regulations and guidance, the Employer FSA funds will be made available for a Coalition bargaining unit employee who:
  - 1. Is occupying a position that has an annual full-time equivalent base salary of fifty thousand four dollars (\$50,004) or less on November 1 of the year prior to the year the Employer FSA funds are being made available; and
  - 2. Meets PEBB program eligibility requirements to receive the employer contribution for PEBB medical benefits on January 1 of the plan year in which the Employer FSA funds are made available, is not enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, and does not waive enrollment in a PEBB medical plan except to be covered as a dependent on another PEBB non-high deductible health plan.
  - 3. Hourly employees' annual base salary shall be the base hourly rate multiplied by two thousand eighty-eight (2088).
  - 4. Base salary excludes overtime, shift differential and all other premiums or payments.
- C. A medical FSA will be established for all employees eligible under this Section who do not otherwise have one. An employee who is eligible for Employer FSA funds may decline this benefit but cannot receive cash in lieu of this benefit.

- D. The provisions of the State’s salary reduction plan will apply. In the event that a federal tax that takes into account contributions to a FSA is imposed on PEBB health plans, this provision will automatically terminate. The parties agree to meet and negotiate over the termination of this benefit.
- E. Eligible employees will be provided information regarding the benefit and use of the FSA funds at new employee orientation, during open enrollment periods, and at the beginning of each plan year. The PEB Health Care Benefits Labor Coalition and Health Care Authority committee will confer on methods of ensuring eligible employees understand and are able to access information regarding the FSA benefit, including exploring ways for employees to access information in preferred languages.

**ARTICLE 23  
COMPENSATION**

**23.1 Administrative Law Judges General Service Pay Range Assignments**

- A. On July 1, 2021, all Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) covered by this agreement will be placed on the General Service Salary Schedule as follows:

Entry ALJ	Range 68
Line ALJ	Range 70
Lead ALJ	Range 72
Senior ALJ	Range 74

- B. Determination of Base Salary  
At the time of implementation employees will receive a two percent (2%) salary schedule implementation adjustment. This amount will be the base salary for the purposes of placement on the salary schedule.
- C. Implementation of the ALJs on the General Salary Schedule  
After determining base salary above, employees will be placed on a step of their salary range as follows:
  - i. Employees will be assigned to the step on their salary range nearest to, but no less than, their base salary, except that no employee will be placed higher than the top step on their salary range, currently Step L.
  - ii. If the employee’s base salary exceeds the top step of the salary range for the position, the employee will continue to be compensated at the base salary until such time as the employee’s salary falls within the salary range.

- D. Pro Tem ALJs will be paid at the hourly rate established for Range 70, Step L.

### **23.2 Periodic Increases**

Annual periodic increases are is suspended until July 1, 2022.

An employee's periodic increment date (PID) will be set and remain the same for any period of continuous service in accordance with the following:

- A. The period increment date (PID) is based on the employee's initial date of hire with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) as an Administrative Law Judge. The PID date is twelve (12) months from the OAH hire date.
- B. Effective July 1, 2022, employees will receive a two (2) step increase to their base salary annually, on their periodic increment date, until they reach the top step of the pay range, currently Step L.
- C. Employees who are appointed to another position with a different salary range maximum will retain their periodic increment date and will receive step increases in accordance with this section and 23.5 below.

### **23.3 Longevity Increase**

All employees will progress to Step M six (6) years after being assigned to Step L in their permanent salary range. The Employer may increase an employee's step to Step M to address issues related to recruitment, retention or other business needs.

### **23.4 Salary Adjustments**

The Employer may adjust an employee's base salary within their salary range to address issues that are related to recruitment, retention, or other business-related reasons. Such an increase may not result in a salary increase greater than Step M of the range.

### **23.5 Adjustment for Change in Appointment**

Employees appointed to a position with a higher salary range will be placed in the new range at a salary that is nearest to five percent (5%) higher than their previous base salary. The Chief may approve an increase beyond this minimum requirement, not to exceed the maximum of the salary range.

### **23.6 Part-Time Employment**

Monthly compensation for part-time employment will be pro-rated based on the ratio of hours worked to hours required for full-time employment.

### **23.7 King County Premium Pay**

Employees assigned to a permanent duty station in King County will receive five percent (5%) premium pay calculated from their base salary. When an employee is no longer permanently assigned to a King County duty station they will not be eligible for this premium pay.

### **23.8 Salary Overpayment Recovery**

A. When the OAH has determined that an employee has been overpaid wages, the OAH will provide written notice to the employee, which will include the following items:

1. The amount of the overpayment,
2. The basis for the claim, and
3. The rights of the employee under the terms of this Agreement.

B. Method of Payback

1. The employee must choose one (1) of the following options for paying back the overpayment:

- a. Voluntary wage deduction
- b. Cash
- c. Check

2. The employee will have the option to repay the overpayment over a period of time equal to the number of pay periods during which the overpayment was made, unless a longer period is agreed to by the employee and the OAH. The payroll deduction to repay the overpayment shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the employee's disposable earnings in a pay period. However, the OAH and employee can agree to an amount that is more than the five percent (5%).

3. If the employee fails to choose one (1) of the three (3) options described above within the timeframe specified in the OAH's written notice of overpayment, the OAH will deduct the overpayment owed from the employee's wages. This overpayment recovery will take place over a period of time equal to the number of pay periods during which the overpayment was made.

4. Any overpayment amount still outstanding at separation of employment will be deducted from their final pay.

C. Appeal Rights

Any dispute concerning the occurrence or amount of the overpayment will be resolved through the grievance procedure in Article 19, Grievance Procedure, of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **MAINTENANCE OF TERMS AND MANDATORY SUBJECTS**

**24.1** This Agreement supersedes specific provisions of OAH policies with which it conflicts; otherwise, employees remain subject to policies in effect during the term

of this agreement. The Employer will satisfy its collective bargaining obligation before making a change with respect to a matter that is a mandatory subject of bargaining.

- 24.2** During the negotiations of the Agreement, each party had the right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter appropriate for collective bargaining. Therefore, each party voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right and will not be obligated to bargain collectively, during the term of this Agreement, with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this Agreement. Nothing herein will be construed as a waiver of the Union's collective bargaining rights with respect to matters that are mandatory subjects under the law.

## **ARTICLE 25 SAVINGS CLAUSE**

If any court of competent jurisdiction finds any article, section or portion of this Agreement to be unlawful or invalid, the remainder of the Agreement will remain in full force and effect. If such a finding is made, a substitute for the unlawful or invalid article, section or portion will be negotiated at the request of either party. Negotiations will begin within thirty (30) calendar days of the request.

## **ARTICLE 26 DURATION**

- 26.1** All provisions of this Agreement will become effective July 1, 2021, and will remain in full force and effect through June 30, 2023.
- 26.2** If this Agreement expires while negotiations between the Union and Employer are underway for a successor agreement, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for one (1) year from the expiration date. Thereafter, the Employer may unilaterally implement according to law.
- 26.3** Either party may request negotiations of a successor Agreement by notifying the other party in writing no sooner than January 1, 2022, and no later than January 31, 2022. In the event that such notice is given, negotiations will begin at a time agreed upon by the parties.



**A. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
AND  
WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**Independence Workgroup**

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) was established to provide impartial adjudication services, independent from the influence of referring agencies and other partisan interests. Each OAH Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is authorized and responsible under RCW 34.12, RCW 34.05 and other applicable laws and regulations to independently adjudicate each case to which the ALJ is assigned. The independent exercise of judicial discretion, and appearance thereof, is a matter of professional and personal integrity for ALJs, and is essential to the mission of OAH.

The parties agree to form an ALJ Independence Workgroup to discuss and recommend policies regarding ALJ Independence, including but not limited to:

- a. ALJ discretion when presiding over adjudicative proceedings and issuing decisions;
- b. Ex parte contact under [RCW 34.05.455](#);
- c. The appropriate role of managers, supervisors, and mentors in training ALJs and evaluating ALJ performance;
- d. OAH engagement with external stakeholders that can affect ALJ independence; and
- e. Handling of complaints against ALJs.

The Workgroup shall consist of up to four OAH ALJs chosen by the Union and up to four OAH employees chosen by OAH. In addition, the Chief ALJ shall appoint an OAH employee as chairperson.

The Workgroup shall meet during working hours no less than quarterly with the first meeting convened no later than January 31, 2021.

**Dated September 30, 2020**

For the Employer

For the Union

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janetta Sheehan, Labor Negotiator

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Holland, WFSE

**B. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
AND  
WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**Budget Savings for 21-23 Biennium**

**Section 1 - Scope of application and employee considerations**

The parties agree that to address the serious budget shortfall facing Washington State, the employer will use the process set out below to temporarily furlough bargaining unit employees.

During the term of this MOU some employee performance measures may require consideration for an adjustment proportionate to the amount of time spent in temporary layoff status.

**Section 2 – Employer-directed furloughs**

The employer will require eight (8) hours of furlough per month for each eligible full-time employee during the duration of the Agreement. To accomplish this requirement, the Employer may designate a certain day each month as a furlough day taking into account the business needs of the agency. Each ALJ may request that their furlough day be changed to a different day for that month, subject to management approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. ALJs must make such request at least two (2) weeks prior to either the first of the week of the day requested, or of the designed date, whichever is sooner. Other alternative schedule changes may be made by mutual agreement between the ALJ and their supervisor.

In the event OAH is officially closed on an ALJ's work day, the ALJ may hold a hearing on that day if the ALJ believes that the prejudice to the parties of rescheduling the hearing outweighs the risks of conducting the hearing without the availability of technology support and administrative support.

If the employer does not designate agency-wide furlough days, each employee may choose their furlough day each month. The employee will notify their supervisor of their chosen furlough day at least two (2) weeks prior to the first of the week of the chosen furlough day.

**Section 3—Additional voluntary furlough hours**

The Employer encourages employees who are able to take additional furloughs above 8 hours a week to do so. Such employees may submit a plan to furlough for up to an additional 8 hours per month and must not be in the same week as a required furlough day. Such plans should be submitted separately from the furlough plan in Section 2, and are subject to business needs and Division Chief or designee approval.

#### **Section 4 – Hours worked**

ALJs will be overtime eligible for each calendar week during which the ALJ is furloughed, and shall not work more than their total scheduled work hours for that week without prior Deputy Chief approval. An employee shall not be expected to make up furloughed hours in subsequent non-furloughed weeks. However, the parties acknowledge there may be situations where work that might have been done during the furlough will need to be completed after return from furlough.

During a calendar week that includes furloughs, full-time employees who work a flex schedule (whether one flex day per week or one every-other week) will convert to a regular Monday-Friday eight (8) hours per day work schedule. ALJs will maintain their flex schedules during weeks that do not include any furloughs.

During a furlough week, Pro Tem ALJs' hours will be reduced by 20% of their typical hours per week, as determined by OAH. Pro Tems are not required to take a specific furlough day.

During a furlough week, salaried ALJs who work half-time or three-quarters-time will have their regular hours and compensation reduced by 20% per week for each week, without any changes to their benefits.

#### **Section 5 – Intent**

In administering Employer-directed furloughs, the employer will strive to identify the largest employee pool possible in order to spread the burden of salary reductions over the widest population while also taking into consideration the operational and service delivery requirements of the agencies.

#### **Section 6 – Additional Furloughs**

The parties agree that, should additional furloughs beyond the dates set out above be required, the Employer shall provide notice of its intent to do so and will satisfy its bargaining obligations per Article 20, Layoff and Recall. The Employer agrees to notify and bargain impacts if the budget savings provided through furloughs is insufficient to avoid permanent layoffs. In addition to the provisions outlined above, the parties agree to continued discussions to identify supplemental options to address budget issues during this biennium.

#### **Section 7 - Reopener**

This MOU may be re-opened at the request of either party solely for the purpose of discussing:

- Possible adjustments to the number of furlough days required in Section 2 above;
- Possible adjustments to the periodic increment date step increases provided for in Article 23, Compensation in the second year of the biennium;
- The addition of a personal leave day for ALJs in the second year of the biennium;

- The designation of a personal leave day in June 2023 to recognize Juneteenth, unless it has been designated as a paid holiday by the legislature. The parties recognize that observing Juneteenth is a way to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, honor all those that have paved the road to freedom, and allow for critical reflection on the progress that must continue.

The party seeking to reopen shall notify the other party no later than July 1, 2021. Bargaining will begin at a time mutually agreed upon by the parties no later than July 15, 2021. All statutory provisions applicable to this bargaining unit will continue to apply to the reopener bargaining. The parties' agreement to reopen this MOU should not be construed as establishing a past practice or creating any future obligation other than what is explicitly contained in the language.

**Section 8 - Participation in ESD Programs**

In the event there is a change in federal or state law that affects potential unemployment insurance claims covering these furlough days with an opportunity to provide budget savings to the State, the parties agree to meet to discuss participation in such program(s).

**Section 9 –Public Service Loan Forgiveness**

The Employer shall consider any employee furloughed under this MOU to be a full-time employee for certification of the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, and shall sign any necessary certification.

**Section 10 – Expiration**

This MOU expires June 29, 2023.

**Dated September 30, 2020**

For the Employer

For the Union

/s/

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janetta Sheehan, Labor Negotiator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Holland, Lead Negotiator

**C. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
AND  
WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**Collective Bargaining Agreement Training 2021-2023**

- A. The Employer and the Union agree that training for managers, supervisors and union stewards responsible for the day-to-day administration of this Agreement is important. The union will provide training to union stewards, and the Employer will provide training to managers and supervisors on this Agreement.
- B. The Union will present the training to union stewards within each bargaining unit. The training will last no longer than four (4) hours. The training will be considered time worked for those union stewards who attend the training during their scheduled work shift. Union stewards who attend the training during their non-work hours will not be compensated. The parties will agree on the date, time, number and names of stewards attending each session. The training will be completed by the parties within ninety (90) days of publishing or posting of this Agreement.

**Dated September 30, 2020**

For the Employer

For the Union

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janetta Sheehan, Labor Negotiator

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Holland, WFSE

**D. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
AND  
WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**Administrative Law Judges**

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

During the course of bargaining the 2021-2023 CBA, issues regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the workforce was identified as a topic that both the Employer and Union agreed should be addressed.

A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR) committee shall be established. The committee will hold a series of regularly scheduled meetings, which will include at minimum, the following voluntary participants:

- Chief ALJ or Deputy Chief ALJ
- Human Resources Manager
- 4 Bargaining Unit employees as designated by the union
- 4 non-represented staff
- Training & Development Coordinator
- Human Resources Consultant

The DEIR Committee will provide a forum for OAH employees to discuss issues related to DEIR, and make recommendations to OAH regarding changes to policies, systems and practices in order to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect both within the workplace and in the services provided to the public. Committee members will be provided sufficient paid work time to meet and perform DEIR-related tasks as authorized by OAH.

This MOU will go into effect on October 1, 2020.

**Dated September 30, 2020**

For the Employer

For the Union

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janetta Sheehan, Labor Negotiator

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Holland, WFSE

THE PARTIES, BY THEIR SIGNATURES BELOW, ACCEPT AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

Executed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2021.

For the Washington Federation of State Employees - Administrative Law Judges:

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Leanne Kunze  
WFSE Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jason Holland  
Lead Negotiator

For the State of Washington:

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jay Inslee  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Diane Lutz, Section Chief  
OFM/SHR, Labor Relations Section

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jenny Sheehan, Lead Negotiator  
OFM/SHR, Labor Relations Section