

## Notes to the Financial Statements (cont.)

**WSPRS:** Each biennium, the state Pension Funding Council adopts the employee and the state contribution rates, subject to revision by the Legislature. The employee and the state contribution rates are developed by the Office of the State Actuary to fully fund the plan.

The methods used to determine the contribution requirements are established under state statute in accordance with Chapters 43.43 and 41.45 RCW.

**JRS:** No active members are in the Judicial Retirement System. The state guarantees the solvency of JRS on a pay-as-you-go basis. Each biennium, the Legislature, through appropriations from the state General Fund, contributes amounts sufficient to meet benefit payment requirements. For fiscal year 2016, the state contributed \$9.5 million.

**JRF:** No active members are in the Judges' Retirement Fund. The state guarantees the solvency of JRF on a pay-as-you-go basis. Each biennium, the Legislature, through appropriations from the state General Fund, contributes amounts sufficient to meet benefit payment requirements. For fiscal year 2016, the state contributed \$0.5 million.

### D. Judicial Retirement Account

The Judicial Retirement Account (JRA) was established by the Legislature in 1988 to provide supplemental retirement benefits. It is a defined contribution plan the state of Washington Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) administers under the direction of the Board for Judicial Administration. Membership includes judges elected or appointed to the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and superior courts who are members of PERS. Vesting is full and immediate.

Since January 1, 2007, any newly elected or appointed Supreme Court justice, Court of Appeals judge or superior court judge may no longer participate in JRA. As of June 30, 2016, five active members and 135 inactive members were in JRA. The state, through the AOC, is the sole participating employer in JRA.

JRA plan members are required to contribute 2.5% of

covered salary. The state, as employer, contributes an equal amount on a monthly basis. The employer and employee obligations to contribute are established in Chapter 2.14 RCW. Plan provisions and contribution requirements are established in state statute, and only the state Legislature can amend them.

A JRA member who separates from judicial service for any reason is entitled to receive a lump sum distribution of the accumulated contributions. The administrator of JRA may adopt rules establishing other payment options. If a member dies, the amount of accumulated contributions standing to the member's credit at the time of the member's death is to be paid to the member's estate or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the member has nominated by written designation.

The administrator of JRA has entered into an agreement for services with DRS and with the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB). Under this agreement, DRS is responsible for all record keeping, accounting and reporting of member accounts and WSIB is granted the full power to establish investment policy, develop participant investment options and manage the investment funds for the JRA plan, consistent with the provisions of RCW 2.14.080 and 43.84.150.

### E. Deferred Compensation Program

The Deferred Compensation Program (DCP) is established pursuant to RCW 41.50.770 and in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. Employees of the state of Washington and its political subdivisions that choose to join have the option of participating in the program. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, disability, death or unforeseeable financial emergency. DRS administers the state Deferred Compensation Program.

The intent of the program is to provide additional income to participants upon retirement. By deferring part of their income, participants can reduce their taxable income each year. The investments remain tax-free until they are withdrawn. The program provides participants with a means to easily save money and help supplement their other retirement income.