

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC04-20

IN RE: COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT  
PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability was established as a distinct court commission in 2002 for the purpose of proposing policies and procedures on matters related to efficient and effective resource management, performance measurement, and accountability in Florida's trial courts. This work responds to mandates that emanate from section 19, Article III, Constitution of the State of Florida; Chapter 216, Florida Statutes; and the judicial branch's long-range strategic plan.

Over the past several years, the Commission has made substantial contributions to the State Courts System's preparations for the transition to state funding mandated by a 1998 amendment to Article V of the state constitution, which is commonly referred to as "Revision 7." This transition to state funding affords an opportunity to make significant steps forward in the administration of justice in all Florida communities by improving the operations of trial courts in

several critical respects. The Commission will play an ongoing role as the Revision 7 funding transition continues to be implemented.

During the next two years, the Commission is expected to coordinate with and support the work of other judicial branch committees, as appropriate, as it performs the following tasks:

1. Continue to develop, coordinate, report, and make recommendations to the Supreme Court on a comprehensive performance measurement, improvement, and accountability system for the trial courts.
2. Propose an overall management system for the due process services of court reporting, language interpretation, and expert witnesses. In this regard the Commission should coordinate with the legislatively created Article V Indigent Services Advisory Board. The Commission is requested to give priority attention to the development and implementation of a management system for court reporting. The court reporting management system should address practices and procedures for inter-agency coordination with clerks, state attorneys, public defenders and court-appointed counsel; delivery models, standards, funding, and technology options; performance and cost data; and long-term improvement strategies.

3. In consultation with the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy and other entities as appropriate, propose an overall management system, performance and workload measurements, and procedures to ensure compliance with legislative data requirements, for court mediation programs receiving state funding.
4. Clarify the respective roles of constitutional officers regarding the essential functions of the courts.
5. Finalize recommendations regarding implementation of the performance and accountability system for circuit criminal cases.
6. Recommend a design and propose implementation strategies relating to a court resource management system for the trial courts that supports effective resource management and accountability.
7. Coordinate a proposed judicial branch response to statutory requirements and requests by the Florida Legislature and the Office of the Governor that relate to trial court performance.
8. Continue to monitor the Summary Reporting System, the Delphi Weighted Caseload measures, and other trial court data reporting systems relevant to the certification of need of judges, and make

recommendations to the Supreme Court for enhancements that will improve the reliability of these systems.

The following individuals are appointed to serve on the Commission for terms to expire on July 1, 2006:

The Honorable Alice Blackwell White, Chair  
Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert B. Bennett, Jr.  
Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Mr. Mike Bridenback  
Court Administrator, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jack H. Cook  
Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Brian J. Davis  
Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable James V. Dominguez  
Judge, Hillsborough County

Ms. L. Caron Jeffreys  
Court Administrator, Twentieth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Nancy Moate Ley  
Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Peter R. Lopez  
Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ellen Sly Masters  
Judge, Polk County

Ms. Carol Lee Ortman  
Court Administrator, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jonathan Sjostrom  
Judge, Second Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Seung Woo Im  
Judge, Pinellas County

The Commission is authorized to propose amendments to rules of court procedure on issues involving trial court performance and accountability, as well as pursue those amendments with the appropriate Florida Bar rules committees. Ms. Renee Goldenberg shall serve as the liaison between the Commission and The Florida Bar Rules of Judicial Administration Committee.

Justice Kenneth B. Bell will serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Commission. Staff support will be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 13, 2004.

  
Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente

ATTEST:

By:   
Deputy Clerk

Thomas D. Hall, Clerk

