

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC05-22

IN RE: DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL BUDGET COMMISSION

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The District Court of Appeal Budget Commission was created to oversee the preparation and implementation of the district court component of the judicial branch budget. The Commission is directly responsible for recommending budgeting and funding policies and procedures for the district court budgets, so that the funding requirements of each of the intermediate appellate courts can be adequately addressed while promoting statewide operational consistency.

In accordance with rule 2.504, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the following chief judges shall serve on the Commission through June 30, 2007:

The Honorable Charles J. Kahn, Jr.  
Chief Judge, First DCA

The Honorable Carolyn K. Fulmer  
Chief Judge, Second DCA

The Honorable Gerald B. Cope, Jr.  
Chief Judge, Third DCA

The Honorable W. Matthew Stevenson  
Chief Judge, Fourth DCA

The Honorable Robert J. Pleus Jr.  
Chief Judge, Fifth DCA

Chief Judge Kahn is appointed to serve as chair and Chief Judge Stevenson is appointed to serve as vice chair until July 1, 2006.

The rule establishes an expectation that the commission will be a collaborative body and that it will represent the interests of the district courts generally rather than the individual interests of a particular district. As the members assume their new duties, they shall collectively examine the responsibilities of the commission, as defined in rule 2.054(b), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and establish a process that embraces the enumerated responsibilities and supports accountability for resources. Recognizing that each district court has the flexibility to identify the organizational framework and resources required to process cases, the commission is directed to also consider the implications of equity in funding and uniformity in budgetary policy and procedure. The balance of flexibility, equity, and uniformity should be applied to both the budget request process and the allocation of resources. As the members establish the commission's work process, they are specifically requested to incorporate the following steps:

1. Consider the goals and strategies of *Horizon 2006*, the 2004-2006 Operational Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch, as the commission

develops the budget plan and strategies for the district courts of appeal.

2. Establish a liaison relationship with the Commission on District Court of Appeal Workload and Jurisdiction, chaired by Judge Chris Altenbernd, and integrate consideration for trends in case filings, case mix, and other factors that impact caseload as part of the district court budget development strategy.
3. Establish a liaison relationship with the Commission on District Court of Appeal Performance and Accountability, chaired by Judge Martha Warner, and integrate that commission's work on judicial workload, staffing, and best business practices into the development of the district court legislative budget request.
4. Establish a liaison relationship with the Appellate Court Technology Committee, chaired by Judge Thomas Sawaya, and address the current and future technology funding needs for all district courts as part of the legislative budget request.
5. Review the State Courts System Classification and Pay Study to determine the budget implications and priorities for district court staff pay and benefits.

6. Consider alternative service delivery models, including outsourcing as well as court staffing with respect to the efficiency and effectiveness of court operations in areas such as security and facilities maintenance.
7. Consider establishing subcommittees composed of other district court of appeal judges and court staff with subject matter expertise to help advance the work of the commission. This may be beneficial in areas such as personnel issues, intergovernmental relations, and the advancement of the budget request.
8. Develop operational procedures for the commission as prescribed in rule 2.054(c), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration.

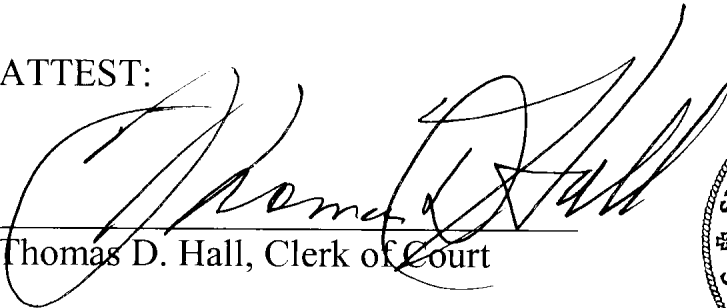
The Office of State Courts Administrator will provide staff support for the commission to assist with planning and budget strategy development, preparing the legislative budget request, reviewing the compensation and pay for court staff, and advancing the budget request to the legislature.

Justice Barbara J. Pariente will serve as liaison to the commission. The full Court will review the proposed operating procedures of the commission as well as the legislative budget request.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 8, 2005.

  
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Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente

ATTEST:

  
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Thomas D. Hall, Clerk of Court

