

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC06-62

IN RE: JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Judicial Management Council was established in 1995 in accordance with an amendment to rule 2.125, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration. The Judicial Management Council replaced the former Judicial Council, which had existed in various forms since its creation in 1954. In addition to the name change, the 1995 rule amendment revised the role and membership of the Council. Following its 1995 reorganization, the Judicial Management Council was assigned oversight of numerous policy initiatives that contributed to the enhancement of the administration of justice in this state.

During 2000, when the State Courts System was engaged in preparation for and implementation of fiscal unification of the judicial branch,¹ it became apparent that changes were necessary in the court committee structure to accommodate the increasing branch policy and oversight demands related to the transition to state

¹In 1998 the people of Florida approved a constitutional amendment that placed greater responsibility on the state for funding the state's trial courts. The implementation of Revision 7 to Article V was the judicial branch's greatest challenge in recent history. This amendment, which completed the unification of the State Courts System that was begun in 1972 with the overhaul of Article V, went into effect on July 1, 2004.

funding of the trial courts. New commissions and committees were established by the Supreme Court and given specific charges relating to the fiscal unification. The Judicial Management Council became inactive while the State Courts System focused its attention on successfully traversing the momentous transition to state funding and ensuring that Floridians were not negatively impacted as new trial court funding structures were implemented.

I find that, at this time, it is appropriate to reauthorize and renew the Council. In order to ensure that the Council will once again serve as an effective forum for research and debate on specific matters, it is also appropriate and necessary to adjust the Council's role, membership, and focus in a manner that integrates the Council within the present committee structure of the State Courts System.

Accordingly, the Judicial Management Council of Florida is hereby reconstituted as a judicial branch advisory council for the purposes of providing a formal mechanism for effective two-way communication about the justice system between major citizen constituencies and the courts, informing the public about the justice system, and providing a unique and broad perspective on significant court initiatives. It is anticipated that the Council will bring together the collective knowledge and experience of State Court System leadership with members of the

public for the purpose of conferring about administration of justice issues that have statewide impact, affect multiple levels of the court system, or affect multiple constituencies in the court community. This collaborative approach will enhance the internal management of the State Courts System by providing court system leadership with a broad perspective on the myriad of administrative challenges facing the Florida courts.

Over the next two years, the Council shall give priority attention to the following tasks:

1. Provide advice on court operations through consultation with other court commissions and committees that support various functions of the judicial branch. Such collaboration shall include observations on major initiatives proposed by other court commissions and committees as well as input on judicial administration and management processes that should be standardized at the statewide level.
2. Provide input to the Task Force on Judicial Branch Planning as the Task Force updates the long-range strategic plan for the judicial branch and develops operational plans.

3. Review, update, and implement appropriate strategies from the 2000-2006 Communication Plan for the Judicial Branch.
4. Recommend amendments to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.125 regarding the future role, membership, and structure of the Judicial Management Council. In formulating its recommendations, the Council should seek and consider input from judicial branch leadership including the chief judges of the district courts of appeal, the chief judges of the circuit courts, chairs of court-appointed committees, and officers of the judicial conferences. Outreach should also be conducted to former members of the Council.
5. Serve as a forum for judicial officers to collaborate with their justice system partners and members of the public on topical issues and trends affecting the administration of justice in Florida.
6. Perform other responsibilities as directed by the Chief Justice.

Throughout its history, one of the Council's greatest strengths has been the breadth and balance of its membership. This administrative order continues that tradition with a carefully appointed Council membership that attunes the judicial branch to the needs of Floridians and allows the judicial branch to engage in a

productive exchange of ideas on critical issues. The following individuals are appointed to serve on the Council for terms that expire on June 30, 2008:

One Supreme Court justice:

The Honorable Kenneth B. Bell

Two district court judges:

The Honorable Carolyn Fulmer
Second District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Peter Webster
First District Court of Appeal

Two circuit court judges, one of whom is a chief judge:

The Honorable Ronald Alvarez
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Joseph P. Farina
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Two county court judges:

The Honorable John Duryea
Lee County

The Honorable Cheryl Thomas
Hillsborough County

One state attorney:

The Honorable Bernie McCabe
Sixth Judicial Circuit

One public defender:

The Honorable Nancy Daniels
Second Judicial Circuit

The Attorney General's designee:

Mr. Gerald B. Curington
Tallahassee

One clerk of court:

The Honorable Ken Burke
Pinellas County

Two representatives of The Florida Bar, one of whom is a member of the Board of Governors:

Ms. Melanie Ann Hines
Tallahassee

Mr. Benedict P. Kuehne
Miami

One member of the Florida Senate:

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Winter Garden

Four public members:

Mr. Barney Barnett
Publix Supermarkets
Lakeland

Mr. Edward Feaver
Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies
Tallahassee

Mr. C. Patrick Roberts
Florida Association of Broadcasters
Tallahassee

Mr. Alejandro M. Sanchez
Florida Bankers Association
Tallahassee

Members at large:

The Honorable Reubin Askew
Tallahassee

Mr. Allan G. Bense
Businessman
Panama City

Mr. Michael Bridenback
Trial Court Administrator
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Mr. J. Dudley Goodlette
Attorney at Law
Naples

Mr. Gary M. Gregory
Miami

The Honorable Hubert Grimes
Circuit Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit


Mr. Phillip D. Lewis
Riviera Beach

Mr. Bill Montford
Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Mr. H. T. Smith, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Miami, Florida

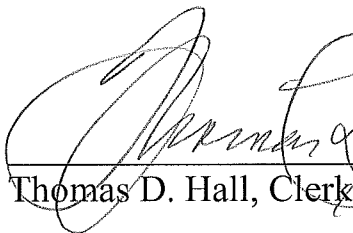
Judge Joseph P. Farina will serve as chair, for a term to expire on June 30, 2008. The Office of the State Courts Administrator shall provide the necessary staff support to enable the Council to carry out its duties.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on October 30, 2006.



Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis

ATTEST:



Thomas D. Hall, Clerk of the
