

Office of the State Courts Administrator
The Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

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**Florida Supreme Court Committee to Host Public
Meeting on Future of Florida Courts**

A cornerstone of a well-functioning society is an effective judicial system. In the coming years, Florida's courts will face major challenges in the administration of justice. Rapid and significant changes in the state's population and demographic makeup, economic structure, political landscape, environment, and other factors will create challenges for Florida's court system.

To anticipate and prepare for these challenges, the Florida judicial branch is currently developing its long-range strategic plan for 2016-2022. This plan will articulate the major issues facing the judicial system and outline priority goals and strategies to address those issues.

Understanding local conditions throughout Florida and being responsive to those conditions is critical in creating an effective strategic plan. The judicial branch invites citizens to provide public comments at public meetings being held around the state.

"We need to know how we're doing, what works well, and what may need to be improved," said Fourth District Court of Appeal Judge Jonathan Gerber, Chair of the Long Range Strategic Planning Workgroup that operates under the auspices of the Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Management Council. "The opinions and perspectives of all Floridians are important to us and will affect the plans and choices that we make. The revised plan will continue to support the overall vision of the judicial branch: accessible, fair, effective, responsive, and accountable justice for all."

Public meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

Date	City	Location
January 8, 2015	Orlando	Orange County Commission Chambers 201 S. Rosalind Avenue Orlando, Florida 32802
January 21, 2015	Bartow	Polk County Commission Chambers 330 W. Church Street Bartow, Florida 33831
February 17, 2015	Panama City	Bay County Commission Chambers Bay County Government Building 840 West 11 th Street Panama City, Florida 32401
February 23, 2015	Miami	Miami Dade County Commission Chambers 111 N.W. 1 st Street, Second Floor Miami, Florida 33128
February 25, 2015	Jacksonville	Duval County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room 501 W. Adams Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202
March 2, 2015	Lake City	Columbia County Courthouse Courtroom One 173 N.E. Hernando Avenue Lake City, Florida 32055

Each meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:00 p.m. Public officials are invited to speak from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and citizens are invited to speak from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All citizens and public officials with an interest in the state courts are invited to speak or submit written comments.

Speakers are asked to address to the following questions:

- What are your thoughts about the state courts system?
- What do you believe are the most important issues currently facing Florida courts?

The current Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch is available at:

<http://www.flcourts.org/administration-funding/strategic-planning/planning-publications/long-range-plan.stml>

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to participate in this public meeting should contact Joanne Snair at 850-922-5618 or via email at snairj@flcourts.org as far in

advance as possible, but preferably at least five working days before the date of the meeting. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech impairment and use specialized telephone equipment are welcome to contact us through the Florida Relay Service, 7-1-1.

Written comments will be accepted through March 16, 2015, and may be sent to the address below or submitted electronically through the online public comment forum at www.flcourts.org/comment.stml.

Long Range Strategic Planning Workgroup
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Florida Supreme Court
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1900
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MISSION: The mission of the judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

VISION: Justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive and accountable.