

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

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

(January 2, 2015)

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

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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
<b>January 8, 2015</b>	Orlando	<b>Orange County Commission Chambers</b> 201 S. Rosalind Avenue Orlando, Florida 32802
<b>January 21, 2015</b>	Bartow	<b>Polk County Commission Chambers</b> 330 W. Church Street Bartow, Florida 33831
<b>February 17, 2015</b>	Panama City	<b>Bay County Commission Chambers</b> Bay County Government Building 840 West 11 <sup>th</sup> Street Panama City, Florida 32401
<b>February 23, 2015</b>	Miami	<b>Miami Dade County Commission Chambers</b> 111 N.W. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, Second Floor Miami, Florida 33128
<b>February 25, 2015</b>	Jacksonville	<b>Duval County Courthouse</b> Jury Assembly Room 501 W. Adams Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202
<b>March 2, 2015</b>	Lake City	<b>Columbia County Courthouse</b> 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](mailto: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](http://www.flcourts.org/comment.stml).

Long Range Strategic Planning Workgroup  
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Florida Supreme Court  
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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.