

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC10-35

IN RE: FLORIDA COURT EDUCATION COUNCIL

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Florida Court Education Council was established in 1978 and charged with providing oversight of the development and maintenance of a comprehensive educational program for Florida judges and certain court support personnel. The Council's responsibilities include making budgetary, programmatic, and policy recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding continuing education for Florida judges and certain court professionals.

Court committees, including the Council, are a vital component in the governance of the judicial branch. Committees established by the Supreme Court assist in the development of policies and operating procedures that enhance the administration of justice. In recent years, as a result of the global recession and the subsequent decline in state financial resources, the Florida State Courts System has sustained significant reductions in operating funds and staff positions. Even given the demanding fiscal times we are in, work of the Florida Court Education Council must proceed. The Council must, however, be cognizant of the limitations on the

resources available to support its efforts as it develops a work plan that will accomplish, to the best of the Council's abilities, the important tasks assigned in this administrative order. Accordingly, the chair should use discretion in the establishment of subcommittees that require operating funds and staff support. With regard to meetings, the Council should strive to utilize the most economical means appropriate to the type of work being accomplished.

Throughout the years, the Council has undergone various changes in membership. Most recently, the Florida Court Education Council made the following recommendations which were approved in 2008: (1) add as a new position, the Education Chair of the Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges; (2) add as a new position, one additional at-large member from the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida; (3) clarify that the position previously designated, "Chief Judge Representing Other Court Personnel" should always be the Chair of the Other Court Personnel Committee; (4) add as a new position, an at-large member for Other Court Personnel; and (6) add as two new positions, the Co-chairs of the Universal Planning Committee. Additionally, the Council recommended that all at-large members serve a four-year term and that the circuit conference and county conference at-large members have staggered terms so that every two years, one at-large member from each of those conferences rotates off the Council. Those recommendations will be followed here.

The Honorable Jorge Labarga shall serve as Chair of the Council and The Honorable Jennifer D. Bailey shall continue to serve as Vice Chair. Both the Chair and the Vice Chair will serve as voting members with terms to expire on June 30, 2012. Any member of the Council who has not yet attended the Faculty Training Specialty Course must do so within one year of their appointment. The Council shall now consist of the following members who also reflect recent and upcoming changes in conference officers and education committee membership:

**Supreme Court**

Chief Justice or a Justice designated by the Chief Justice:

The Honorable Jorge Labarga

**Appellate Courts**

Conference Education Committee Co-Chair:

The Honorable Patricia Kelly, to serve during her tenure as  
Conference Education Committee Co-Chair

At-large member:

The Honorable Clay Roberts, to serve for a term that expires June 30,  
2012

**Circuit Courts**

Conference Chair:

The Honorable Kevin Emas, to succeed The Honorable Peter Blanc

Conference Education Committee Chair:

The Honorable Scott Bernstein, to serve during his tenure as  
Conference Education Committee Chair

Vice Chair of the Council:

The Honorable Jennifer D. Bailey

At-large members:

The Honorable Alicia Latimore, to serve for a term that expires June  
30, 2012

The Honorable Donald Jacobsen, to serve for a term that expires June  
30, 2014

**County Courts**

Conference President:

The Honorable Wayne Miller, to succeed The Honorable Gary Flower

Conference Education Committee Chair:

The Honorable David Denkin, to succeed The Honorable Louis  
Schiff, and to serve during his tenure as Conference Education  
Committee Chair

At-large member:

The Honorable Augustus Aikens, to serve for a term that expires June  
30, 2012

The Honorable James McCune, to serve for a term that expires June  
30, 2014

## **Deans**

### **Dean of the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies:**

The Honorable Gill Freeman

### **Dean of the Florida Judicial College:**

The Honorable Frederick Lauten, Jr.

### **Appellate Associate Dean of the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies:**

The Honorable William A. Van Nortwick

### **Associate Dean of the Florida Judicial College:**

The Honorable Mark Shames

## **Trial Court Administrators**

### **Trial Court Administrator:**

Mr. Nick Sudzina, to serve for a term that expires June 30, 2011

Mr. Rick Callanan, to serve as a non-voting member through June 30, 2011, at which time he will succeed Mr. Nick Sudzina and become the voting member for the Trial Court Administrators for a term that expires June 30, 2014

## **Other Court Personnel**

### **Chair of the Other Court Personnel Committee:**

The Honorable Kathleen Kroll

### **At-large member:**

Magistrate Jon Johnson, to serve for a term that expires June 30, 2012

## **Universal Planning Committee**

### **The Co-chairs of the Universal Planning Committee:**

The Honorable Scott Brownell

The Honorable Mark Shames

During the next two years, the Council shall perform the following tasks:

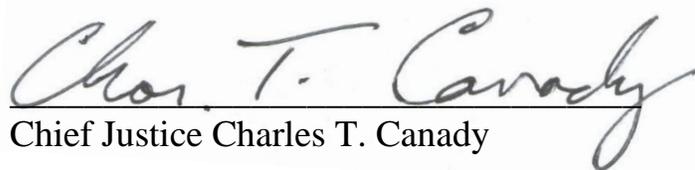
1. Administer the Court Education Trust Fund to provide education and training for judges and Florida court personnel as defined and determined by the Council.
2. Through the Publications Committee, develop publications to enhance the competence of the judiciary and court support personnel.
3. Continue to develop distance learning events and methodologies in order to support the education and training of Florida court personnel and to supplement live, in-person training in the judicial branch.
4. Examine the goals in the Long-Range Plan which relate to the mission of the Council and ensure that educational programs that are offered by the Council support those goals.
5. Support the Office of Court Education within the Office of the State Courts Administrator in its efforts to retain and develop staff thereby supporting the continuity of service needed to enhance judicial branch education.

The Florida Court Education Council should submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

Should the Florida Court Education Council make recommendations that impact on court technology, the Council is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the Florida Courts Technology Commission. At a minimum, the Council shall provide the Chair of the Florida Courts Technology Commission with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference court technology, prior to the finalization of those reports.

The Judicial Branch Governance Study Group was established in the fall of 2009 and directed by the Supreme Court to undertake an in-depth study of the current governance system of the judicial branch of Florida. There is a possibility the results of that initiative may necessitate a re-evaluation of this administrative order, at a future date.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 1, 2010.

  
Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

ATTEST:

  
Thomas D. Hall  
Clerk, Supreme Court

