

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC18-77

IN RE:       WORKGROUP ON COURT COSTS AND FINES

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Judicial Management Council serves as a focused advisory body that assists the chief justice and the Court. The Council is charged, among other responsibilities, with identifying and evaluating information that would assist in improving the performance and effectiveness of the judicial branch. Additionally, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.225 encourages the chief justice and Court to consider referring significant issues with judicial branch policy implications to the Council prior to the creation of any new committees.

The Workgroup on Court Costs and Fines (hereinafter “Workgroup”) is hereby established within the Judicial Management Council to review monetary assessments as well as identify innovative methods to reduce the disproportionate impact this issue sometimes has on low-income individuals. The Workgroup shall:

1. Examine the process for judges in determining whether to impose court costs and fines against low-income individuals in criminal and civil traffic cases;
2. Review laws and rules relating to waivers, conversions, and reductions of court costs and fines;
3. Evaluate the processes for determining defendant ability to pay and the establishment of payment plans;
4. Evaluate whether alternative sanctions can be appropriately imposed in lieu of court costs or fines for low-income individuals;
5. Make recommendations, if warranted, to ensure that this state's system for the imposition of court costs and fines does not disproportionately impact low-income individuals in a manner resulting in undue hardship while maintaining appropriate sanctions for criminal and civil traffic offenses;
6. Propose any revisions in the law and rules necessary to implement the Workgroup's recommendations; and
7. Determine the fiscal and workload impacts on the court system and other stakeholders if recommendations made by the Workgroup are implemented.

The Workgroup shall perform its responsibilities consistent with *The Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch 2016-2021*, including but not limited to Long-Range Issue 1 (Deliver Justice Effectively, Efficiently, and Fairly) and Issue 4 (Modernize the Administration of Justice and Operation of Court Facilities).

The Workgroup shall complete its findings and recommendations no later than June 30, 2020. Consistent with its procedures, the Council will submit the Workgroup's report, along with the Council's comments and recommendations, to the chief justice through the state courts administrator.

The following persons are appointed to serve on the Workgroup for a term that expires on June 30, 2020:

The Honorable Nina Ashenafi Richardson  
County Court Judge, Leon County  
Member, Judicial Management Council

The Honorable Josephine Gagliardi  
County Court Judge, Lee County  
Member, Rules of Judicial Administration Committee

The Honorable Mary Catherine Green  
County Court Judge, Polk County

The Honorable Frederick J. Lauten  
Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Member, Judicial Management Council

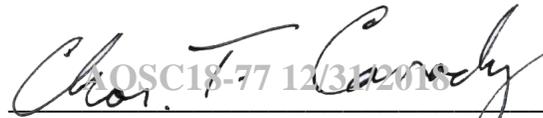
The Honorable Anthony Rondolino  
Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit  
Member, Trial Court Budget Commission

The Honorable Olin Shinholser  
Senior Judge  
Member, Judicial Management Council

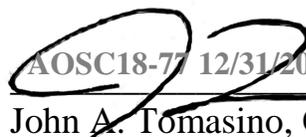
The Honorable Frederick J. Lauten shall serve as chair to the Workgroup.  
Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

The Workgroup must be cognizant of the limitations on the resources available to support its efforts as it develops a work plan that will accomplish the important tasks assigned in this administrative order. With regard to meetings, the Workgroup should strive to utilize the most economical means appropriate to the type of work being accomplished.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on December 31, 2018.

  
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Chief Justice Charles T. Canady  
AOSC18-77 12/31/2018

ATTEST:

  
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John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court  
AOSC18-77 12/31/2018

