

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC19-2

IN RE:       WORKGROUP ON REMOTE APPEARANCE

## 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 Remote Appearance (hereinafter “Workgroup”) is hereby established within the Judicial Management Council to consider how remote appearance technologies may be appropriately employed in the court system to enhance efficiencies and cost effectiveness for both courts and court users. The Workgroup shall:

1. Review current laws, rules, and cases related to the use of remote appearance technology in Florida courts and consider the legal issues arising from the use of such technology;
2. Consider the appropriate types of cases and hearings for the use of remote appearance technology;
3. Consider the technology requirements for implementing remote appearance systems with respect to courts, litigants, attorneys, clerks, law enforcement, and others who may be affected by the use of such technology;
4. Consider the potential fiscal and workload impact of using remote appearance technology; and
5. Recommend changes to the use of remote appearance technology by Florida courts, if warranted, and propose any revisions in the law and rules necessary to implement the recommended changes.

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 March 31, 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 March 31, 2020:

The Honorable Jennifer Bailey  
Circuit Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
Member, Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability

Ms. Holly Elomina  
Trial Court Administrator, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit  
Member, Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability

The Honorable Benjamin Garagozlo  
County Court Judge, Brevard County  
Member, Judicial Management Council

Mr. Laird Lile  
Attorney, Naples  
Member, Judicial Management Council  
Member, Florida Courts Technology Commission

The Honorable Edwin Scales  
Appellate Judge, Third District Court of Appeal  
Member, Judicial Management Council

Mr. Steve Seibert  
Attorney, St. Petersburg  
Member, Judicial Management Council

Mr. Mike Smith  
Court Technology Officer, Fourth Judicial Circuit  
Member, Florida Courts Technology Commission

The Honorable S. Scott Stephens  
Circuit Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit  
Member, Florida Courts Technology Commission  
Member, Judicial Management Council

The Honorable S. Scott Stephens 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 January 4, 2019.

*Char. T. Canady*  
AOSC19-2 1/4/2019

Chief Justice Charles T. Canady  
AOSC19-2 1/4/2019

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
AOSC19-2 1/4/2019  
John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

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