

FINAL

**Trial Court Budget Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2014**



Attendance – Members Present

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| The Honorable Mark Mahon, Chair | Ms. Kathy Pugh |
| The Honorable Robert Roundtree, Vice Chair | Mr. Grant Slayden |
| The Honorable Catherine Brunson | The Honorable Elijah Smiley |
| The Honorable Jeffrey Colbath | Mr. Walt Smith |
| Mr. Tom Genung | The Honorable John Stargel |
| The Honorable Robert Hilliard | The Honorable Margaret Steinbeck |
| Ms. Sandra Lonergan | The Honorable Patricia Thomas |
| The Honorable Thomas McGrady | Mr. Mark Weinberg |
| The Honorable Wayne Miller | Ms. Robin Wright |
| The Honorable Debra Nelson | |
| The Honorable Gregory Parker | |

Attendance – Members Absent

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| The Honorable Ronald Ficarrotta | The Honorable Bertila Soto |
| The Honorable Diana Moreland | |

Special Note: It is recommended that these minutes be used in conjunction with the meeting materials.

Judge Mahon called the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The roll was taken with a quorum present.

Agenda Item I: Transfer of Trial Court Funds to Facilitate Circuit Senior Judge Needs

Eric Maclure provided an overview of the FY 2014-15 Foreclosure Backlog Reduction Initiative senior judge resource distribution. As a result of senior judge resource reductions from the initial plan, some circuits that rely heavily on the use of senior judges to assist in the processing of foreclosure cases expressed concern about the impact of the adjustment.

Based on the results of a circuit court survey to assess need, Mr. Maclure presented two options to the commission for consideration.

Option 1 – Utilize 40 days indicated as available for reallocation by the Second and Fourteenth Circuits; utilize 50 days from the regular senior judge day reserve; and recommend that the chief justice submit a budget amendment to transfer \$165,113 from the mediation services category reserve to the regular senior judge category to be used for foreclosure and other senior judge needs as identified by the circuits. Upon approval of the budget amendment by the chief justice and legislature, allocate the funds to the seven circuits as additional senior judge days in accordance with the needs identified.

Option 2 – Do not take action at this time and revisit senior judge expenditure trends and assessment of circuit senior judge needs in January 2015, for consideration of an additional allocation or reallocation of days at that time.

Judge Mahon stated the Executive Committee recommended approval of Option 1. Mr. Maclure noted the Executive Committee further recommended that later in the fiscal year, remaining senior judge days could be reanalyzed and may be transferred back for use in another critical area.

Dorothy Wilson indicated that based on historical data, an average of 20 days are typically used from reserve each year and for Option 1, 30 days would still be available for use. Additionally, Option 1 would have no impact to a circuit other than the two circuits who volunteered to return days and the circuits requesting additional days.

Judge Miller made a motion to approve Option 1 as presented. Judge Parker seconded and the motion was passed without objection.

Adjournment

With no other business before the commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.