

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC10-48

IN RE: COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT  
PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability was established in 2002 for the purpose of proposing policies and procedures on matters related to the efficient and effective functioning of Florida's trial courts, through the development of comprehensive performance measurement, resource management, and accountability programs. This charge responds to mandates that emanate from section 19, Article III, Constitution of the State of Florida; Chapter 216, Florida Statutes; and the judicial branch's long-range strategic plan.

Court committees 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 Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability must proceed.

The Commission 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 Commission'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 Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability should strive to utilize the most economical means appropriate to the type of work being accomplished.

During the next two years, the Commission is expected to perform the following tasks:

1. Consistent with Goals 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 5.1 of the Long-Range Strategic Plan of the Florida Judicial Branch 2009-2015, identify the information, by case type, that needs to be accessed and tracked by judges, case managers, and other court staff in order to move cases efficiently and effectively through the trial court process. Additionally, identify the key caseload and workload information needed at the circuit and statewide reporting levels essential for performance monitoring and resource management. The Commission

shall collaborate with the Florida Courts Technology Commission and submit a report to the Supreme Court with related recommendations on or before July 1, 2012. The Court Statistics and Workload Committee of the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability shall establish uniform data definitions, guidelines, and standards for data collection and reporting necessary to produce consistent, automated trial court case management statewide, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission.

2. Through the Court Statistics and Workload Committee, continue to address policy issues as necessary to maintain the integrity of the Summary Reporting System, the Weighted Caseload Model, the Uniform Data Reporting System, and other data collection efforts related to trial court activity. The Committee shall provide direction for addressing special data collection needs requested by the Florida Legislature or other government bodies and guidance in the development of standardized reporting systems for the trial courts. The Committee shall continue to provide policy guidance related to data collection and analysis pertaining to trial court activity, workload, supplemental resources, and performance measures.

3. Continue with the development of standards of operation and best practices for the major elements of the trial courts with a specific focus on court interpreting services.
4. Continue to provide support and assistance to the trial courts with regard to implementation of standards of operation and best practices approved by the Supreme Court.
5. Continue to propose judicial branch responses to any statutory requirements and requests by the Florida Legislature and the Office of the Governor related to trial court performance and accountability.

The following individuals are appointed to serve on the Commission for terms that expire on June 30, 2012.

The Honorable Paul Alessandroni  
Judge, Charlotte County

Mr. Mike Bridenback  
Court Administrator, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Dawn Caloca-Johnson  
Judge, Second Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Brian J. Davis  
Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Gay Inskeep  
Court Administrator, Sixth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leandra G. Johnson  
Judge, Third Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kathleen J. Kroll  
Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Peter F. Marshall  
Judge, Volusia County

The Honorable Ellen Sly Masters  
Judge, Tenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Metzger  
Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Diana L. Moreland  
Judge, Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Carol Lee Ortman  
Court Administrator, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Terry D. Terrell  
Judge, First Judicial Circuit

The Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability should submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

The Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability is authorized to propose statutory changes related to the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the trial courts.

The Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability is authorized to propose amendments to rules of court procedure on issues involving the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the trial courts, for consideration by the Court. Should the Commission recommend amendments to the rules of court procedure or forms, it shall file such recommendations in petition form with the

Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court. The Honorable Lisa Davidson shall serve as the liaison between the Commission and The Florida Bar Rules of Judicial Administration Committee.

Should the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability make recommendations that require additional funding or resources to implement, the Commission is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission or the Trial Court Budget Commission, as appropriate. At a minimum, the Commission shall provide the chair of the respective budget commission with copies of Commission reports and recommendations that reference the need for additional court funding or resources, prior to the finalization of those reports.

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

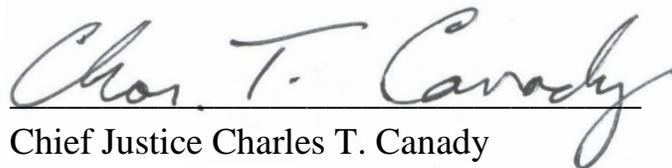
Should the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability make recommendations about the education and training needs of judges and court

staff, the Commission is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationships with the Florida Court Education Council. At a minimum, the Commission shall provide the Chair of the Florida Court Education Council with copies of Commission reports and recommendations that reference court education, prior to the finalization of those reports.

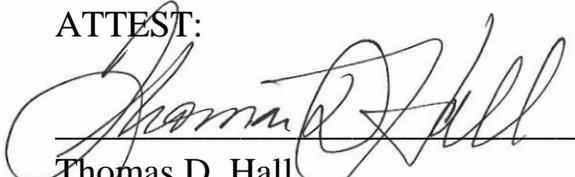
The Judicial Branch Governance Study Group was established in the fall of 2009 and directed by the Supreme Court to undertake an in-depth study of the current governance system of the judicial branch of Florida. There is a possibility the results of that initiative may necessitate a re-evaluation of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

The Honorable Terry D. Terrell shall serve as chair through June 30, 2012. The Honorable Jorge Labarga shall continue to serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Commission. Staff support will be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED AT Tallahassee, Florida, on August 20, 2010.

  
Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

ATTEST:

  
Thomas D. Hall  
Clerk, Supreme Court

