

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC16-105

IN RE: SHARED REMOTE INTERPRETING SERVICES IN FLORIDA'S  
TRIAL COURTS

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

In July 2002, the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability was established by the Supreme Court for the purpose of proposing policies and procedures on matters related to the efficient and effective resource management, performance measurement, and accountability of Florida's trial courts. Through In Re: Court Interpreting Services in Florida's Trial Courts, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC11-45 *Corrected* (Jan. 30, 2012), and In Re: Commission On Trial Court Performance and Accountability, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 14-40 (July 2, 2014), the Supreme Court directed the assessment of remote interpreting and associated new operational provisions.

To address these directives, a joint workgroup, with cross-over membership from the Trial Court Budget Commission's (TCBC) Due Process Technology Workgroup, the Court Interpreter Certification Board (CICB), and the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability (TCP&A), was established to make

recommendations on the business processes associated with sharing remote interpreting resources via the assisted use of technology.

The joint workgroup completed an extensive court interpreting data collection effort and developed recommendations in support of the initiatives of the State Courts System to improve access to qualified interpreter services. Through these efforts, in October 2016, the TCP&A submitted a report to the Supreme Court entitled *Recommendations on Shared Remote Interpreting Services in Florida's Trial Courts* (the Report). The recommendations included in the Report are:

1. Establishment of a statewide pool of court interpreters who are certified in accordance with the Florida Rules for Certification and Regulation of Spoken Language Court Interpreters;
2. Establishment of statewide education and training provisions on virtual remote interpreting;
3. Requirements for each interpreter participating in the statewide pool to track virtual remote interpreting events by entering information into a local system;
4. Allowance for interpreters to take an oath administered by the presiding judge that would remain valid as long as the interpreter is employed; and

5. Establishment of a governance committee to make recommendations to the TCP&A, the CICB and the TCBC, regarding management and oversight issues of the statewide pool; and authorization of the governance committee to monitor funding needs of the circuits and make recommendations to the TCBC.

The recommendations addressed in the Report are hereby adopted as a means to provide the foundation for supporting shared remote interpreting services throughout the trial courts.

Accordingly, the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability is charged with establishing a shared remote interpreting governance committee. This committee shall consist of judges, trial court administrators, the State Courts Technology Officer, and circuit court staff, including technology officers and court interpreters, representing small, medium, and large circuits. Additionally, the governance committee is authorized to consult with and submit recommendations directly to the TCP&A, the CICB, and the TCBC, as necessary. Once established, the governance committee is charged with:

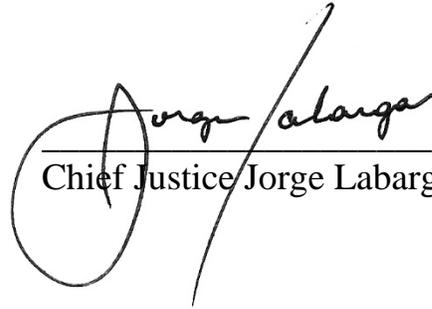
1. Establishing the statewide court interpreting pool for remote interpreting;
2. Developing recommendations to the TCBC for its review and consideration on additional funding needs, as requested by the

circuits, for interpreting services associated with shared remote interpreting. These recommendations should be based on standardized room models/costs, for both state and county obligated portions of remote interpreting technology, as developed by the TCBC;

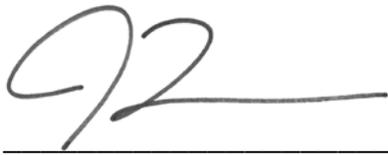
3. Collecting workload data and needs-based funding information for shared remote interpreting for the circuits;
4. Overseeing administration/management issues. This shall include procedural changes to the shared remote interpreting model based upon periodic review of circuit data, as well as feedback and recommendations from the circuits regarding operational issues arising from the use of virtual remote interpreting, with modifications made as appropriate; and
5. Establishing Memorandums of Understanding between circuits and the governance committee.

Implementation of shared remote interpreting in Florida's trial courts will be an on-going project, requiring collaboration of the trial courts, the TCP&A, the TCBC, the CICB, and the Florida Courts Technology Commission. The Florida Supreme Court recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions from these commissions and the courts in improving the provision of interpreting services.

DONE AND ORDERED, at Tallahassee, Florida, on December 1, 2016.

  
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Chief Justice Jorge Labarga

ATTEST:

  
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John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

