

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this long-range strategic plan is to articulate a comprehensive plan of action to guide the judicial branch of Florida as it seeks to advance its mission and vision over the next six years. The plan is organized around five broad issue areas and includes specific goals and strategies associated with each issue. Such strategic planning is required by Rule of Judicial Administration 2.225.

The strategic plan is intended to assist the Supreme Court of Florida and the chief justice of Florida in leading the State Courts System as well as the judicial branch. In addition to exercising direct control over the administration of the State Courts System, the supreme court and the chief justice provide leadership and direction within the broader justice system. The supreme court makes rules governing the courts and the legal profession, oversees the regulation of lawyers and the admission of new lawyers into the practice of law, imposes judicial discipline based upon recommendations by the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and provides critical oversight over other aspects of the justice system. Therefore, within this plan some goals and strategies are explicitly directed to the State Courts System, and others are addressed more broadly to the overall justice system.

Components of the Long-Range Strategic Plan

The long-range strategic plan is composed of mission and vision statements, five strategic issues, 16 goals, and 71 strategies. The mission and vision statements were articulated in the first long-range strategic plan, *Taking Bearings, Setting Course: the Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch*, issued in 1998. The mission and vision are unchanged in this plan. The long-range issues are high priority strategic areas presenting significant challenges that must be addressed over the long term in order to move toward fulfilling the vision and mission. Goals are aspirational statements of a desired future state that can realistically be achieved with respect to the issue area. Strategies are more specific statements of intent, describing in general terms courses of action that can be undertaken to advance the associated goal.