

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC08-84

IN RE: COMMISSION ON DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL
PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Commission on District Court of Appeal 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 district courts through the development of comprehensive resource management, performance measurement, 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.

As a result of the economic challenges currently facing the nation and the State of Florida, our state government has experienced a substantial revenue shortfall. As a result of the decline in state financial resources, the Florida State Courts System has sustained significant reductions in operating funds and staff positions during Fiscal Years 2007/08 and 2008/09. The State of Florida may face additional reductions in state government, which may impact the courts as well.

During these demanding fiscal times, there is still a need for the important work of the Commission on District Court of Appeal Performance and Accountability to proceed. The progress of Commission's work will, however, be impacted by the reduced operational funds and staffing that are available. The Commission is therefore directed to make every effort to conserve resources by: prioritizing its work and considering a gradual, phased-in approach within available resources; using discretion in the establishment of subcommittees that require operating funds and staff support; limiting the number of in-person meetings; and utilizing such options as telephone conference calls, videoconferencing, and other electronic meeting options as appropriate.

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

1. Pursuant to 2.240(b)(2)(B)(ii), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, conduct the first four-year review of the workload trends of the district courts and consider adjustments in the relative case weights used for the determination of need for additional judges. The Commission shall submit a report to the Supreme Court with case weight recommendations and, if applicable, proposed revisions to rule 2.240, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration.

2. Work collaboratively with the Court Emergency Management

Workgroup and consult with the Florida Court Technology Commission on the development of recommendations for emergency preparedness procedures pertaining to the processing of appellate cases, including a description of what constitutes an acceptable appellate filing under an emergency scenario.

3. Work collaboratively with the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability and the Steering Committee on Children and Families in the Court to monitor the processing of post-conviction, dependency, and termination of parental rights cases.

4. Continue to propose judicial branch responses to the Florida Legislature and Office of the Governor related to district court performance and accountability.

5. Continue to review district court of appeal case management information and ensure the establishment of uniform data definitions and uniform reporting procedures.

Commission reports should be submitted to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

The Commission is authorized to propose amendments to rules of court procedure on issues involving district court performance and accountability for

consideration by the Court, as specified above. 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.

Should the Commission 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. At a minimum, the Commission shall provide the chair of the budget commission with copies of Commission reports and recommendations that reference the need for additional court funding or resources.

The following individuals are appointed to serve on the Commission for terms to expire on June 30, 2010:

The Honorable Chris W. Altenbernd
Judge, Second District Court of Appeal

Mr. Ty W. Berdeaux
Marshal, Fifth District Court of Appeal

Ms. Mary Cay Blanks
Clerk, Third District Court of Appeal

Mr. Thomas D. Hall
Clerk, Florida Supreme Court

The Honorable William D. Palmer
Judge, Fifth District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Vance Salter
Judge, Third District Court of Appeal

The Honorable William A. Van Nortwick
Judge, First District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Martha C. Warner
Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal

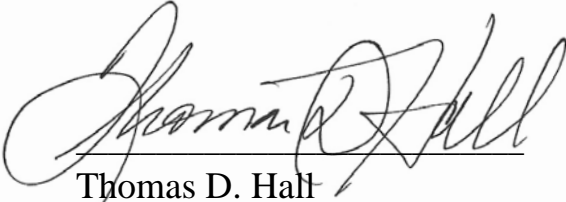
Judge Van Nortwick shall serve as chair through June 30, 2010. Staff support will be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on September 29, 2008.



Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince

ATTEST:



Thomas D. Hall
Clerk, Supreme Court

