

Reports of the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability

The Committee on Trial Court Performance and Accountability was established within the Judicial Management Council in 1998 to oversee the trial court component of a judicial branch initiative to support ongoing enhancement of the performance of Florida's courts and improvement in the ability of the courts to be accountable to the people. Due to the workload demands on the Committee, the Supreme Court, in July 2002, determined that it was appropriate to establish the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability as a distinct commission, whose purpose is to propose policies and procedures on matters related to efficient and effective resource management, performance measurement, and accountability of Florida's trial courts.

Mission

- *Report and Recommendations* – December 1999
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on the capacity of the trial courts to measure and report on their performance.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: articulating the mission of the trial courts; identifying legitimate expectations common to all trial court divisions; identifying program outcomes, performance measures, and standards for trial court programs; and recommending steps to further implement a performance and accountability program.

Due Process

Court Interpreting:

- *Report and Recommendations* – January 2002
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on interpreter roles and appointments, Florida and Federal Law, costs & performance measurement.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: mission statement, performance measures, management practices, statutory and rule revisions, and service provision.

Court Reporting:

- *Recommendations for the Provision of Court Reporting Services in Florida's Trial Courts – Supplemental Report* – November 2009
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Court Reporting section.**
 - Supplements the recommendations originally proposed by the TCP&A in October 2007:
 - Revises two standards of operation pertaining to Transcript Production and Producing Copies of Recordings
 - Provides an additional standard of operation pertaining to Producing Copies of Recordings
 - Revises one best practice related to Service Delivery Models and one best practice related to Monitoring Ratios
- *Recommendations for the Provision of Court Reporting Services in Florida's Trial Courts* – October 2007
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Court Reporting section.**
 - Report on effective and efficient management of court reporting services with a specific focus on legal and operational issues arising from the use of digital technology and operational standards and best practices for providing court reporting services.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: uniformity in trial court operations; quality of the court reporting process; maximization and accountability of resources; local operational flexibility; and rule revisions based on defining the transcript (not digital recordings) as

the official record, defining court control of access to the official record, and limiting the preparation of transcripts to court-approved court reporters or transcriptionists.

- *Court Reporting in Florida's Trial Courts Post-Revision 7* – February 2005
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Court Reporting section.**
 - Report is a starting point for development of statewide court reporting best practices and policies.
 - Sections include: purpose statement, the legal necessity of court reporting at public expense, and the delivery and management of court reporting services.
- *Report and Recommendations* – December 2002
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Court Reporting section.**
 - Report on usage, service delivery models, costs & performance measurement.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: purpose statement, performance measures, objectives for statutory and rule revisions, strategy for best business practices and funding for electronic court reporting.

Expert Witnesses:

- *Report and Recommendations on the Definition and Purpose of Court Appointed Expert Witnesses* – January 2003
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on historical practices, new approaches, and standard definitions.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: standard definition, identification of legal criteria, service delivery options, as well as development of management practices and a funding allocation process.

Adjudication

Judicial Resources:

- *Recommendations on Senior Judge Resources in the Judicial Weighted Workload Model* – September 2008
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, in the Court Statistics and Workload Committee section, as well as the Publications Page, in the Workload section.**
 - Recommendations pertaining to senior judges in the current certification methodology, requesting and allocating senior judge resources, extending the judicial weighted workload model to define and calculate sustained need, and improving circuit level reporting on senior judge usage.
- *Judicial Resource Study: Final Report Measuring the Workload of Trial Court Judges, General Magistrates and Hearing Officers* – June 2007
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, in the Court Statistics and Workload Committee section, as well as the Publications Page, in the Workload section.**
 - Analytical examination of workload in Florida's trial courts.
 - Primary goal: update judicial case weights and determine case weights for other supplemental resources in order to develop a model of judicial and supplemental resource usage that will help to determine expected future need.
 - Secondary goal: develop a tool to assist judicial leadership in determining the optimal allocation of judicial and supplemental resources.

Masters and Hearing Officers:

- *Report and Recommendations – May 2002*
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Recommendations pertaining to: positions & title classifications, training, service delivery, restrictions and impediments, staffing and funding considerations, and service areas.

Senior Judges:

- *Workgroup Report – August 2000*
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on definition, utilization and accountability of senior judge resources.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: application, certification and renewal process; continuing education requirements; registry; allocation & authorization of days; travel policies; support staff; budget requests; compensation; management & data reporting; and orientation and education.

Legal Support:

- *Report and Recommendations – 2005*
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Preliminary recommendations pertaining to: purpose statement, staffing, position classifications and compensation, specialization and education, and best practices.

Case Management:

- *Workshop Report – June 2001*
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on the preliminary review of case management for purposes of developing policy recommendations related to the use of resources, and performance and accountability.

Mediation:

- *Recommendations for Alternative Dispute Resolution Services in Florida's Trial Courts – August 2008*
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on funding and operational issues to ensure equity and uniformity of court-connected ADR/Mediation programs.
 - Funding recommendations pertaining to: revising the manner in which mediation funds are allotted by the TCBC, defining the length of a mediation session, filing fees assessed and collected by the clerks of court, and statutory increases to mediation session fees.
 - Operational recommendations pertaining to: court application of ADR, case referrals to court-connected mediation programs, ADR staffing and responsibilities, service delivery, contract compensation, and county mediation.
- *Report and Recommendations – August 2003*
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on purpose, scope, service definitions, key performance areas, and program goals.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: service delivery models for court-ordered family, dependency, and county civil cases and a strategy for Revision 7 transitional issues.

Self-Help:

- *Ensuring Access to Justice: Serving Florida's Self-Represented Litigants* – Supplemental Report – December 2008
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Self Help/Pro Se section.**
 - Issued due to the Funding Stabilization Initiative, which necessitated a shift in roles and responsibilities for clerk and court staffs.
- *Ensuring Access to Justice: Serving Florida's Self-Represented Litigants* – April 2008
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Self Help/Pro Se section.**
 - Report on court-based comprehensive service framework to connect litigants with legal services and provide them with access, information, resources, and procedural assistance.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: access to services and due process; roles and responsibilities of court and clerk staff for oversight, case management, and ministerial assistance; guidelines for the coordination of legal information services; and identification of twelve threshold services.

Circuit Criminal Cases:

- *Criminal Workgroup Report* – December 2000
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Recommendations pertaining to: mission statement, classification system, key events in processing criminal cases, uniform measures of timeliness, uniform descriptive indicators, and current rule on time standards.

Postconviction:

- *Postconviction Workgroup Report and Recommendations* – October 2006
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Report on reducing the number of repetitive filings in the courts.
 - Recommendations pertaining to: reworking the postconviction process to clarify and limit the multiplicity of repetitive motions that both trial and appellate courts review without sacrificing meritorious issues.

Governance

Court Appointed Counsel:

- *Recommendations for Improving Governance and Operations for Appointed Counsel and Due Process Services: A Report to the Florida Legislature* – January 2007
 - **Available on the Performance and Accountability Page, as well as the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Recommended principles pertaining to: ensuring that appointed counsel services and support are not under the control of the judicial branch; local control; independence; policy-making and operational capacity of a governance system; clear accountability for quality of representation and efficiency in operations; and adequate funding.
- *Administrative and Operational Support for Court-Appointed Counsel and Indigent Due Process Costs* – November 2004
 - **Available only on the Publications Page, in the Other Reports section.**
 - Recommendations pertaining to: establishing operational procedures, managing CAC registry process, managing due process services, managing appointment of CAC in individual cases, and managing the compensation for CAC and due process service providers.