

District Court of Appeal Budget Commission
January 30, 2007
Video Conference Call
(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
Meeting Minutes

DCABC Members Present:

Judge Carolyn Fulmer, Chair
Judge Matthew Stevenson, Vice Chair
Judge Peter Webster
Judge Stevan Northcutt
Judge David Gersten
Judge George Shahood
Judge Robert Pleus, Jr.
Judge William Palmer

Others Present:

Judge Chris Altenbernd
Marshal Don Brannon
Marshal Velma Johnson
Marshal Dottie Munro
Marshal Glen Rubin
Marshal Ty Berdeaux
Al Sadowski
Lisa Goodner
OSCA Staff

Absent:

Judge Edwin Browning, Jr.
Judge Gerald Cope, Jr.

Judge Carolyn Fulmer called the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission (DCABC) meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Judge Fulmer asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2006, meeting. Judge Cope requested the following change within the 2007-08 Legislative Budget Request section of the minutes to read: on page two, third sentence, adding “to make sure enough funds were requested.” As modified the sentence would then read: “Judge Kahn asked about the entryway expansion issue in the Third DCA to make sure enough funds were requested. The estimate appeared lower than expected for such an extensive project.” The motion to adopt the minutes with the proposed changes was made by Judge Pleus and seconded by Judge Northcutt. The motion was approved without objection.

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Appellate Judiciary Travel Issue

Judge Fulmer and Judge Altenbernd briefed the members regarding the status of proposed legislation relating to appellate travel reimbursement being advanced by Judge Alan Lawson. Discussion took place about the protocol for submittal of issues within the LBR, the cause and effect upon the Judicial Branch's pay and benefits package as presented to the Legislature, and that the legislation should be considered by the Committee on Unified Judicial Compensation, chaired by Judge Altenbernd. The consensus of the members was to leave this issue as an informational item and that Judges Altenbernd and Pleus would discuss the matter further with Judge Lawson.

Status Report from Legislative Meetings

Judge Fulmer briefed the members regarding the courts' LBR testimony before the House Safety and Security Council on January 24, 2007. Chief Justice Lewis, Chief Judge Fulmer, Chief Judge Belvin Perry, and Ms. Goodner testified as to specific budget entity requests. In addition, Judge Fulmer pointed out that the DCA request consists mostly of non-recurring dollars and that the presentations were well received by the members. Ms. Goodner stated that recurring revenues are of continued interest to the members because of potential changes in revenue forecast estimates.

Additionally, Judge Fulmer briefed the commission members relating to individual meetings with Senate/House members and said that the feedback was positive and productive.

Schedule VIII-B Priority Listing of Issues for Possible Reduction

Charlotte Jerrett briefed the members on the Schedule VIII-B annual LBR exercise designed to identify potential budget reductions in the event of a revenue shortfall. Ms. Jerrett highlighted several points: the proposed 1.5% reduction is prorated to each of the five District Courts of Appeal based on the total operating budget; the House has made a formal request for all budget entities within the system to comply; and historically, the branch has not submitted this report to the Legislature. Ms. Goodner pointed out that the DCA budget consists of buildings and people and that a further review of chapter 216 was recommended before proceeding. Judge Fulmer said she had plans to return to Tallahassee next week and that the exercise would need to be investigated further with staff, and a follow-up e-mail would then be forwarded to the members.

Other Business

Judge Fulmer asked the members if they had any additional issues or concerns. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.