

**District Court of Appeal Budget Commission**  
**August 3, 2007**  
**Video Conference Call**  
**(9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**DCABC Members Present:**

Judge Stevan Northcutt, Chair  
Judge Edwin Browning Jr., Vice Chair  
Judge Peter Webster  
Judge Carolyn Fulmer  
Judge Darryl Casanueva  
Judge David Gersten  
Judge George Shahood  
Judge Robert Gross  
Judge William Palmer  
Judge David Monaco

**Others Present:**

Marshal Don Brannon  
Marshal Velma Johnson  
Marshal Jo Suhr  
Marshal Dottie Munro  
Marshal Glen Rubin  
Marshal Ty Berdeaux  
Lisa Goodner  
OSCA Staff

**Absent:**

Judge Juan Ramirez

Judge Stevan Northcutt called the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission (DCABC) meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Update on the Budget Forecast**

Judge Northcutt briefed the members on the current status of the budget forecast released by the General Revenue estimating conference, which met Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Charlotte Jerrett stated that with the release of statewide revenue collections by the GR estimating conference, the Commission should proceed under the same circumstances as have been anticipated in recent months.

**Review and Discussion of Proposed Budget Cuts Offered by Each DCA**

Judge Northcutt moved to review and discuss individual budget cuts offered by each appellate court. Each chief judge outlined individual cut proposals to the members.

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Ms. Jerrett referred the members to a worksheet summarizing total budget reduction measures submitted by each DCA.

Dorothy Burke updated the members on worksheets outlining current General Appropriations Act (GAA), various appropriations adjustments, target amounts released by the Governor's office (EOG), DCA submitted reductions, the percentage of identified reduction to the EOG adjusted appropriation, and the exemption of Judges, Marshals, and Clerks' salaries within the target reduction. Ms. Burke explained that the total percentage of identified reductions compared to the adjusted appropriation was 0.94% and that the total percentage of identified reductions compared to the adjusted appropriation was 1.65%.

The consensus of the Commission was to formally adopt the individual appellate proposals into one collaborative report. The motion was made by Judge Shahood and seconded by Judge Browning. The motion was passed without objection. Discussions took place regarding salary and benefit dollars versus rate dollars. The consensus of the members was to propose an amended motion removing the rate amount submitted by the Second DCA and incorporating the salary and benefits amounts solely into the collaborative report. The amended motion was offered by Judge Browning and seconded by Judge Shahood. The amended motion passed without objection.

Judge Northcutt suggested creating a unified narrative to be drafted by the Marshals. Judge Northcutt asked if an explanation as to why positions were vacant was needed as part of the narrative. Ms. Jerrett suggested that may not be necessary at this time; however, it would be helpful for each DCA to compile current vacant position(s) data, so that it may be used for later discussions with the Governor's office and the Legislature. Ms. Goodner reminded the members to address specific consequences of the ten percent reduction exercise in the narrative and delineate how those reductions would critically impair the adjudicatory functions of the court. Also, Ms. Burke suggested to explain the significant impact budget reductions would have upon the appellate courts, specifically within contracted services, senior judges, and the law library categories.

Ms. Goodner notified the members that the extension request for submittal of the branch's budget reduction report to the Governor's office and the Legislature was approved for Thursday, August 16, 2007. Ms. Goodner also stated that the branch's budget reduction report would be reviewed by the Chief Justice prior to submittal. Ms. Jerrett then asked that the collaborative narrative be submitted to the Budget Office by Friday, August 10, 2007. Ms. Jerrett stated that the Office of Budget Services would

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then compile the final report and forward to the Commission members prior to review by the Chief Justice.

**Budget Cuts – Next Steps**

Ms. Goodner briefed the members with reference to the upcoming special session, scheduled legislative meetings, and presentations. The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations committee has preliminarily requested the branch present budget reduction proposals before the committee on Monday, August 27, 2007. In addition, the House Safety and Security Council has requested the branch present budget reduction proposals before the council on Tuesday, August 28, 2007.

**Next Meeting**

Judge Northcutt addressed the next scheduled DCABC meeting, which will be held Tuesday, August 21, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Second District Court of Appeal, Tampa branch to approve the Legislative Budget Request for FY 2008-2009 and in conjunction a “Budget 101 Workshop” will be presented during the afternoon session.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.