

**District Court of Appeal Budget Commission
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2007**

DCABC Members Present:

Judge Stevan Northcutt, Chair
Judge Peter Webster
Judge David Gersten
Judge Robert Gross
Judge David Monaco

Judge Edwin Browning Jr., Vice Chair
Judge Carolyn Fulmer
Judge George Shahood
Judge William Palmer

Others Present:

Judge Gerald Cope, Jr.
Marshal Velma Johnson
Marshal Dottie Munro
Marshal Ty Berdeaux

Marshal Don Brannon
Marshal Jo Suhr
Marshal Glen Rubin
Lisa Goodner
OSCA Staff

Absent:

Judge Darryl Casanueva

Judge Juan Ramirez

Judge Stevan Northcutt called the emergency District Court of Appeal Budget Commission (DCABC) meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Update on the Budget Reduction Proposal

Judge Northcutt briefed the members on State Courts System legislative committee meetings held on Tuesday, August 28, 2007, and the testimony within the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee and the House Safety and Security Council for Schedule VIII B reduction measures. Notably, further budgetary reductions are necessary, in addition to the budget reduction proposal approved during the August 3, 2007, DCABC meeting and submitted to the legislature. The Florida Senate has requested a 4.2 percent reduction and the House of Representatives has requested a 10 percent reduction; as a result, additional cuts have been recommended by the legislature for the appellate courts. Members of the Commission reiterated concerns that additional cuts would seriously impair the adjudicatory functions of the DCA's. Judge Northcutt echoed concerns relating to the ramifications of these exercises.

Judge Northcutt asked each court to present additional budget cuts for consideration.

First DCA

Don Brannon stated that the First DCA original reduction amount was \$100,735 and that another \$149,000 has been added totaling \$249,735. The revised amount includes a part-time custodial

worker and additional funds from other operating categories. Mr. Brannon said he would provide a worksheet detailing this proposal.

Second DCA

Jo Suhr stated that the Second DCA original reduction amount was \$69,230 and that an additional \$86,550 has been added totaling \$155,780. The revised amount includes a part time custodial worker, a full time user support analyst, and funds from other operating categories.

Third DCA

Chief Judge Gersten stated that the original reduction amount was \$75,040 and that an additional \$135,000 has been added totaling \$210,040. The revised amount includes two full time judicial assistants, one full time law clerk, and funds from other operating categories. The revised total is a rough estimate and additional detail is forthcoming.

Fourth DCA

Chief Judge Shahood stated that the original reduction amount was \$80,000 and that an additional \$119,000 has been added totaling \$199,000. The revised amount includes a full time law clerk, a full time deputy clerk II, full time custodial worker, and funds from other operating categories.

Fifth DCA

Ty Berdeaux stated that the original reduction amount was \$70,530 and that an additional \$173,050 has been added totaling \$279,300. The revised amount includes a full time senior secretary and funds from other operating categories. Mr. Berdeaux stated \$35,720 from the risk management category, was part of the total; however, Ms. Jerrett and Ms. Burke stated that particular category is pass-through funds to DMS and could not be included as part of the reduction exercises. Mr. Berdeaux withdrew the risk management allocation amount from the amended request and the revised amount totaled \$243,580.

Ms. Burke calculated an estimated revised total for all DCA's, which was below the Senate's 4.2 percent reduction target amount. Lisa Goodner stated that she would take this proposal back to the legislature.

Ms. Jerrett asked that each DCA submit a summary sheet outlining all amended requests by category, as well as supplying titles and position numbers to the Office of Budget Services. Ms. Jerrett stated that calculations for salaries and benefits amounts for positions that were offered were to reflect minimum salary amounts for each position class. Adjustments to those amounts would be added to the totals submitted from each DCA. Ms. Jerrett asked if the total number of positions submitted by the Commission was nine FTE's and the members agreed. Ms. Jerrett also stated that once all revised requests have been provided to the Office of Budget Services, a

summary sheet incorporating all amended budget recommendations would then be forwarded to the Commission members for final vote and approval via e-mail.

Judge Fulmer suggested that the Commission research and adopt defined spending policies for future budgetary exercises.

Special Session “C”

Judge Northcutt stated the next set of interim committee meetings are scheduled for the week of September 10, 2007 and that Special Session “C” is scheduled to begin September 18, 2007. Additional meetings will be confirmed with Senate and House members to further address these reductions.

Next Meeting

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.