

**District Court of Appeal Budget Commission
Video Conference Call Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2008**

DCABC Members Present:

Judge Stevan Northcutt, Chair
Judge Paul Hawkes
Judge Darryl Casanueva
Judge Juan Ramirez
Judge William Palmer

Judge Edwin Browning Jr., Vice Chair
Judge Carolyn Fulmer
Judge David Gersten
Judge Robert Gross
Judge David Monaco

Others Present:

Marshal Don Brannon
Marshal Dottie Munro
Marshal Ty Berdeaux

Marshal Jo Suhr
Marshal Glen Rubin
Lisa Goodner
OSCA Staff

Absent

Judge George Shahood

Judge Stevan Northcutt called the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission (DCABC) meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Operating Budget Update

Council of Chief Judges Invoice – Charlotte Jerrett briefed the members on the status of the Council of Chief Judges membership dues invoice. Ms. Jerrett gave several options to bring closure to the issue. After discussion, the commission members agreed to encumber the funds for payment at a later date. Judge Palmer made a motion to proceed accordingly and Judge Browning seconded the motion. Dorothy Wilson will re-send a previous e-mail (December 2007) regarding the cost breakout of the payment per appellate court to the judges and marshals. The commission unanimously approved the motion.

Rate Allocation from Special Session C Budget Reductions – Ms. Jerrett reviewed the budget reductions from Special Session C. With regard to positions, 2.0 FTE's were cut, which consisted of a part-time (.5) custodial worker position in the 1st DCA and a full time user support analyst position (1.0) and a part-time custodial worker position (.5) in the 2nd DCA. The legislature cut 57,626 in rate for the 2.0 FTE's versus 56,300 in rate calculated by the budget office (a difference of 1,326 remains). Ms. Jerrett offered several options for resolving the distribution of the rate remaining to be cut. After discussion, the commission agreed to deduct the total amount of 1,326 equally among all appellate courts. Ms. Wilson indicated 265 in rate would be deducted from each DCA. Judge Browning offered the motion and Judge Palmer seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved the motion and a restoration issue will be filed as a supplemental LBR for FY 2008-09, for the 1,326 rate difference.

Legislative Update

Ms. Jerrett informed the members of upcoming Senate and House interim committee weeks scheduled for February and that budget reductions to the General Appropriations Act (GAA) are imminent. Ms. Jerrett discussed a memorandum from House Speaker Rubio outlining an

additional week of interim committee meetings scheduled for the week of February 12. Each Council plans to meet and work through their recommendations for initial budget reductions for consideration during the first week of the 2008 Session, which is scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

Discussion of FY 08/09 Supplemental Legislative Budget Request (LBR) Issues

1st DCA Workers Compensation Unit – Judge Paul Hawkes briefed the members on the proposed 1st DCA workers compensation unit LBR for FY 2008-09. The 1st DCA has exclusive state-wide jurisdiction of all workers’ compensation appeals and due to increased workload and filings. This request includes 1.0 FTE for a worker’s compensation unit director and 5.0 FTE career attorneys; 1.0 FTE Security Supervisor; 2.0 FTE Court Security Officer II; and 1.0 FTE Deputy Clerk II. This specialized unit will provide for consistency in handling and quicker resolution of workers compensation cases.

Another component of the request is regarding salary parity for career attorneys. After various discussions by the members, a proposed amended issue narrative was offered to change the parity methodology language to the following: “make the average compensation of this group consistent to the statewide average.” Judge Northcutt offered the motion to revise the salary parity language within the 1st DCA’s request and Judge Gersten seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved the motion and the issue will be filed as a supplemental LBR for FY 2008-09.

2nd DCA Security Upgrade – Jo Suhr briefed the members on the 2nd DCA security LBR issue for FY 2008-09. Non-recurring funding is needed to purchase critical security equipment for the Lakeland courthouse. The Department of Homeland Security conducted an assessment of the Lakeland facility and offered various independent recommendations; however, this request is limited only to counter-measures consisting of a closed circuit TV system building access control system, duress alarms, and a building-wide emergency intercom. These improvements will increase security for judges, court staff, and court users. The request totals \$91,100.

Non-recurring funding is requested to purchase a magnetometer for the Tampa branch. Currently, a single hand-held magnetometer is used to screen individuals attending the court’s session. The request totals \$3,400. Judge Palmer offered the motion to adopt the 2nd DCA security upgrade issue and Judge Gersten seconded the motion. The commission unanimously approved the motion and the issue will be filed as a supplemental LBR for FY 2008-09.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.