

Supreme Court of Florida

In Re: Reducing Juror Compensation
Costs

October 8, 1990

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to authority vested in this court by Article V of the Florida Constitution and in consideration of the State Court System's responsibility for efficient administration of funds appropriated for juror per diem and expenses, a comprehensive jury management program is hereby instituted to reduce jury system costs and to minimize inconvenience to citizens summoned for jury service.

Chief circuit judges shall have primary responsibility for the achievement of cost savings and other goals of the jury management program. The Office of the State Courts Administrator shall coordinate the program and shall provide technical assistance and training at the request of judges, court administrators and clerks of court. Support staff will be provided to the circuits on the basis of relative need for jury management improvement. Each judicial circuit shall, at a minimum, comply with the following cost reduction measures:

- I. Mandatory reductions in total juror days paid as prescribed in Attachment I shall be achieved.
- II. For the purpose of determining the maximum number of jurors to be summoned, the panel sizes for any trial shall be as follows:

- A. Capital Cases(in which the Death Penalty is Sought) = No Greater Than 50
- B. Other Twelve-Person Juries and Life Felonies = No Greater Than 30
- C. Circuit Criminal Juries = No Greater Than 22
- D. Circuit Civil Juries = No Greater Than 16
- E. County Court Juries = No Greater Than 14

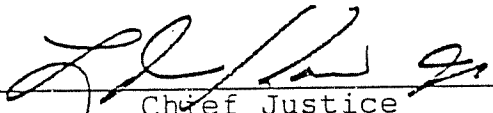
Exceptions to these panel sizes must be approved by the chief judge.

- III. Each Judicial Circuit shall develop a plan to implement the cost reductions goals set forth in this order. The Office of the State Courts Administrator shall provide each Judicial Circuit with guidelines for preparation of the plan with December 1, 1990 as the deadline for submission to the Supreme Court for approval. The guidelines shall be advisory and each Judicial Circuit may design procedures appropriate for local conditions and practices.
- IV. The clerk of the circuit court, or the trial court administrator, if designated by the Chief Judge, shall report the activity of all jury cases before all courts within that jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in the manner and format established by the Office of the State Courts Administrator and approved by the Chief Justice.
- V. As authorized in the 1990-91 Appropriations Act, 20 Deputy Trial Court Administrator positions have been allocated among the circuits on the basis of need for juror compensation cost savings. These positions may be retained only if the goals delineated in the attachment are achieved.

Failure to achieve these goals will result in permanent withdrawal of these positions.

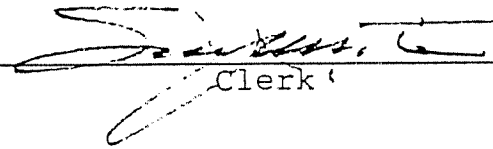
The standards set forth herein shall be implemented immediately.

It is so ordered.

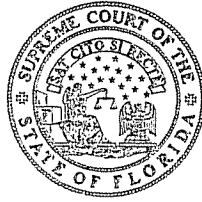


Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Florida

ATTEST:



Clerk



SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE
32399-1925

LEANDER J. SHAW, JR.
CHIEF JUSTICE
BEN F. OVERTON
PARKER LEE McDONALD
RAYMOND EHRLICH
ROSEMARY BARKETT
STEPHEN H. GRIMES
GERALD KOGAN

JUSTICES

M E M O R A N D U M

SID J. WHITE
CLERK
WILSON E. BARNES
MARSHAL

TO: Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts
Trial Court Administrators

FROM: Leander J. Shaw, Jr. *LJS*

RE: Administrative Order, Jury Management Program

DATE: October 8, 1990

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of the Supreme Court's on-going efforts to implement the Jury Management Program, as outlined in my memorandum of August 14, 1990.

First, I am pleased to report that the Executive Office of the Governor has released the funds for implementation of the Jury Management Program. The deputy court administrator positions may be filled immediately. I am satisfied there will be no further delays affecting the project.

As you know, I appointed a Jury Management Steering Committee to act as an advisory body to the Supreme Court on project implementation. In its first two meetings, the committee focused its efforts on policy for project administration, training for judicial personnel, the possibility of a Rule of Judicial Administration concerning jury management, a statutory review of Chapter 40, and review of the present reporting format for jury management data.

Thus far, the committee has made two recommendations. First, it recommended the adoption of an administrative order on jury management. The order addresses all of the major elements of efficient juror use including: 1) assigning responsibility for ensuring that program goals are achieved to the chief judge; 2) setting standard panel sizes for all cases; 3) establishing performance goals for reductions in juror costs for each county; and 4) requiring the development of a circuit-wide plan for jury management. A draft of the administrative order was provided for your review and comment, at our meeting on September 24, 1990.

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Subsequently, the jury management staff of the Office of the State Courts Administrator called all trial court administrators for input. The administrative order was completed and executed, to be effective immediately. A copy of the order is attached.

Second, the committee has recommended that the Office of the State Courts Administrator coordinate with the Center for Jury Studies of the National Center for State Courts, on a series of regional workshops dedicated to jury management. Each circuit will be asked to send a team of people comprised of judges, trial court administrators or their staff, and clerks of court, as designated by the chief judge. The dates and locations of the workshops are as follows:

- New deputy court administrators - Clearwater Beach Hilton, November 14, 1990;
- "Big seven" circuits, i.e., Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Seventeenth - Clearwater Beach Hilton, November 15 and 16, 1990;
- Seventh, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Circuits - Daytona Beach Marriott, December 12, 1990;
- Fifth, Tenth, Twelfth, and Twentieth Circuits - Tampa Omni, December 13, 1990; and
- First, Second, Third, Eighth, and Fourteenth Circuits - Tallahassee Ramada Inn North, December 14, 1990.

Details of each regional workshop will be forthcoming.

I cannot overemphasize how important it is that we implement this project successfully. At the very minimum, we must generate sufficient savings to offset the costs of the deputy court administrator positions assigned to the various circuits. However, the potential for savings far exceeds the cost of those positions. We believe expenditures could be reduced by as much as a million dollars or more, this fiscal year. If we can demonstrate such savings, we will have a powerful lobbying tool during the next legislative session. Therefore, I ask that you move aggressively to establish procedures locally that will bring your circuit into compliance with my administrative order.

Any questions about the order or the work of the committee should be directed to Ken Palmer (904/922-5082, SunCom 292-5082), Peggy Horvath (904/488-6569, Suncom 298-6569), or Mike Bridenback (904/922-5094, SunCom 292-5094).

LJSjr:KRP:dgh:m
Attachment