

Supreme Court of Florida

IN RE: JURY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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

This jury management program has greatly reduced juror costs to the taxpayers of Florida. Expenditures of \$7,868,953 in fiscal year 1989-90 were reduced to \$3,908,353 in fiscal year 1993-94. There has also been a reduction in lost productivity and inconvenience to citizens because fewer people are now summoned for jury service. The 441,334 jurors who served in fiscal year 1989-90 were reduced to 283,984 jurors in fiscal year 1993-94. This allowed 157,350 citizens to work or spend time with their families instead of waiting in a jury pool.

It is a goal of the State Courts System to sustain these savings and continue to improve jury management efficiency where possible. Despite the success of the jury management project, recently the average number of people brought in to start a trial has increased. To halt this trend, the trial courts must act immediately to reduce the

number of jurors called for service and improve the efficiency with which jurors are managed once they report.

Chief judges of the circuit courts shall continue to have primary responsibility for the achievement of cost savings and other goals of the jury management program. However, achievement of these goals cannot be realized without the cooperation of all judges hearing jury trials, as well as personnel in the offices of the clerks of court and trial court administrators. The Office of the State Courts Administrator shall continue to coordinate the jury management program and provide technical assistance and training to the trial judges, trial court administrators, and clerks of court.

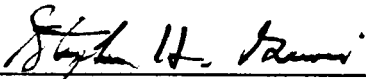
Each judicial circuit shall comply with the following cost reduction measures:

1. Reduction in the number of citizens called for jury service. The primary criteria will be the number of people brought in (PBI) to start a trial. Each circuit should modify existing plans and procedures to reach the goal of averaging 18.3 people brought in to start a trial.
2. For purposes of determining the maximum number of jurors to be summoned, and barring an exception made by the chief judge of each judicial circuit on a case-by-case basis, the panel sizes for any trial should be as follows:
 - a. Capital cases (in which the death penalty is sought) - no greater than 50 prospective jurors,
 - b. Other twelve-person juries and life felony trials - no greater than 30 prospective jurors,

- c. Circuit criminal juries - no greater than 22 prospective jurors,
 - d. Circuit civil juries - no greater than 16 prospective jurors, and
 - e. County court juries - no greater than 14 prospective jurors.
3. The clerk of court, or the trial court administrator if so designated by the chief judge, shall continue to 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.

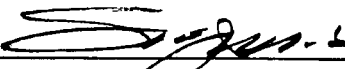
The standards set forth herein shall be implemented immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, this 2nd day of March, 1995.



Chief Justice Stephen H. Grimes

ATTEST:



Sid J. White, Clerk
Florida Supreme Court

