May 14, 2019

Via Email – Kvaldez@ca.cjis20.org
and U.S. Mail

The Honorable Margaret Steinbeck, Commission Chair
c/o Trial Court Budget Commission
Lee County Justice Center
1700 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: Authorized Intra-State Travel for Judicial Assistants to
JAAF Educational Conference

Dear Commission Chair and Commission Members,

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Judicial Assistants Association of Florida, I am
writing to respectfully request that the TCBC recommend an increased allotment of attendees to
allow more Judicial Assistants across this great state to attend the Annual JAAF Education
Conference. Presently, small circuits may send up to 2 attendees, medium circuits may send up to
4 attendees, large circuits may send up to 6 attendees, and extra-large circuits may send up to 8
attendees¹.

The Judicial Assistants Association of Florida (JAAF) is a non-profit 503(c) organization
whose members consist of only Judicial Assistants employed in the state of Florida. The annual
JAAF Education Conference is organized solely by Judicial Assistants and serves as the primary
resource of education to Judicial Assistants on ethics and technology, as well as substantive areas
of law.

Staff for the Florida Judiciary includes 991 Judicial Assistant positions, including the
Florida Supreme Court and the District Courts of Appeal. For the past five years, the average
number of Judicial Assistant attendees to the Annual Education Conference is 135. However, the
2018 Education Conference saw its lowest attendance at 106 due to lack of FCEC Funding, which
is never guaranteed.

¹ Florida Supreme Court of Florida Memorandum re: Budget and Pay Administration for Fiscal Year 2018-19,
Paragraph 5(a).
Continuing education is vital to Judicial Assistants and is beneficial to the Judiciary, Court Administration, law practitioners and staff, but most of all, to the public. It is hoped that this Commission will include increased circuit allotments in this year’s recommendation to the Florida Supreme Court.

The JAAF Executive Board is willing to provide any further information to the TCBC in consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Theresa Novak
JAAF President

Copies furnished via U.S. Mail to:

Hon. Mark Mahon, Vice-Chair
Hon. Monica Brasington
Hon. Angela Cowden
Hon. David Denkin
Hon. Ronald Ficarrotta
Hon. Robert Hilliard
Hon. Frederick Lauten
Hon. Diana Moreland
Hon. Debra Nelson
Hon. Greg Parker
Hon. Anthony Rondolino
Hon. Elijah Smiley
Hon. Bertilla Soto
Hon. John Stargel
Hon. Kathleen Roberts
Hon. Glenn Kelley
Ms. Holly Elomina, TCA 16th Circuit
Ms. Sandra Lonergan, TCA 11th Circuit
Ms. Kathleen Pugh, TCA 17th Circuit
Mr. Grant Slayden, TCA 2nd Circuit
Mr. Walt Smith, TCA 12th Circuit
Mr. Mark Weinberg, TCA 7th Circuit
Mr. Jonathan Lin, TCA 5th Circuit