



Judicial Council Minutes

April 18, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Room 230, MN Judicial Center and via Zoom

The Judicial Council met on Thursday April 18, 2024, in St. Paul, Minnesota and via Zoom. Fourth Judicial District Assistant Chief Judge Mark Kappelhoff attended for Chief Judge Meyer. Eighth Judicial District Chief Judge Beckman and Tenth Judicial District Judge Cunningham attended remotely.

1. Decision Item: Approval of Draft March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes, as submitted. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved the draft March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

2. Discussion Item: Performance Measures Report and Backlog Update

Jennifer Ogunleye, Judicial Research Analyst, Strategic Planning Office provided a statewide summary of performance measures including the statewide time to disposition, the statewide clearance rates, the statewide age of pending cases, the statewide length of time to permanency and adoption, and the statewide race data collection rates.

Each district and the appellate courts reported on individual performance measure results.

3. Discussion Item: Development of the FY26/27 Judicial Branch Budget Request

Dan Ostdiek, Finance Director, State Court Administration, led a discussion on the development of the FY26/27 Judicial Branch Budget Request.

4. Discussion Item: Treatment Court New Funding Policy

Cecilia Bliss, State Treatment Court Coordinator, State Court Administration, presented Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Courts.

The Judicial Council approved funding from the treatment court cannabis allocation for new courts beginning in fiscal year 2025. Since the branch has historically required new courts to pursue federal funding, current policy does not address how the branch should determine eligibility for new court funding. Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Courts, addresses the overall process for funding new courts, as well as expanding existing courts.

5. Decision Item: Continuation of Temporary Referees

Shelley Ellefson, Third Judicial District Administrator & Grant Hoheisel, Court Research Manager, State Court Administration returned for a decision on the Continuation of Temporary Referees.

A request was made for a six-month extension beyond JAD's recommendation to retain temporary referees until June 30, 2025.

A discussion ensued regarding whether temporary referees should be included in the weighted case load (WCL) quarterly complement updates and whether temporary referees should be included in the 2025 WCL time study. There was general agreement that temporary referees could be used through the end of fiscal year 2025, and that the Judicial Weighted Caseload Advisory Committee should provide recommendations to the Judicial Council as to whether temporary referees should be included in the 2025 weighted caseload study and whether temporary referees should be included in the judicial complement updates.

A motion was made and seconded to allow existing temporary referees to be funded through DIS through the end of fiscal year 2025, and to have the Judicial Weighted Caseload Advisory Committee return to the Council in the fall of 2024 to provide recommendations regarding whether temporary referees should be included in the quarterly judicial complement updates and whether temporary referees should be included in the 2025 weighted caseload study.

Council Action

The Judicial Council authorized existing temporary referees to be funded through DIS through the end of fiscal year 2025 and that the Judicial Weighted Caseload Advisory Committee return to the Council in the fall of 2024 to provide recommendations regarding whether temporary referees should be included in the judicial complement updates and whether temporary referees should be included in the 2025 weighted caseload study.

6. Discussion Item: Strategic Planning Policy

Katie Schurrer, Strategic Planning & Projects Office Manager, State Court Administration presented Judicial Council Policy 901, Strategic Planning. Currently, there is no policy governing Strategic Planning. Judicial Council Policy 901, Strategic

Planning addresses this gap by outlining the practice and process for setting the strategic plan. The proposal also recommends renaming the overall policy series to Strategy and Performance.

7. Discussion Item: Other Business

a. Legislative Update

Jeff Shorba, State Court Administrator, provided a legislative update.

b. Judicial Council Courthouse Visit

Chief Justice Hudson noted that this topic will be discussed at the May 16, 2024, Judicial Council meeting.

c. 2024 Judicial Election- certifying seats where incumbents do not file

Chief Justice Hudson provided an update and timeline for the 2024 Judicial Election.

d. Recognize Departing Member

Justice G. Barry Anderson was recognized for his service on the Judicial Council.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.