



Judicial Council Minutes

May 16, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Room 230, MN Judicial Center and via Zoom

The Judicial Council met on Thursday May 16, 2024, in St. Paul, Minnesota and via Zoom. Justice Anne McKeig replaced Justice G. Barry Anderson as the Associate Justice Judicial Council member. Judge Michael Fritz replaced Judge Sarah Hennesy as the Seventh Judicial District Chief Judge. Judge Jennifer Frisch, Court of Appeals, was not in attendance.

1. Decision Item: Approval of Draft April 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft April 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes, as submitted. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved the draft April 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

2. Discussion Item: Draft FY25 Operational Plan

Katie Schurrer, Director, Strategy, Performance, and Projects Office Division, State Court Administration, presented the draft FY25 Operational Plan.

3. Decision Item: Strategic Plan Policy

Katie Schurrer, Director, Strategy, Performance, and Projects Office Division, State Court Administration, returned for a decision on Judicial Council Policy 901, Strategic Planning. The proposed policy outlines the practice and process for setting the strategic plan and renames the overall policy series to Strategy and Performance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Judicial Council Policy 901, Strategic Planning. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved Judicial Council Policy 901, Strategic Planning.

4. Discussion Item: Treatment Court Initiative Work Plan and Annual Report

Judge Joseph Bueltel, Co- Chair, Treatment Court Initiative, presented the Treatment Court Initiative (TCI) FY24 Annual Report and the FY25 Proposed Workplan.

5. Discussion Item: Treatment Court Initiative Charter

Judge Joseph Bueltel, Co- Chair, Treatment Court Initiative, presented the TCI Charter. The Charter was developed to outline the purpose, scope, and objectives of the Treatment Court Initiative, along with member information. A suggestion was made to include law enforcement on TCI. It was noted that TCI will discuss including law enforcement at the next TCI meeting.

6. Decision Item: Treatment Court New Court Funding Policy

Judge Joseph Bueltel, Co- Chair, Treatment Court Initiative, sought approval of Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Courts. Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Court Additional Funding addresses how the Judicial Branch should determine eligibility for new court funding.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Court Additional Funding. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved Judicial Council Policy 511.6, Treatment Court Additional Funding.

7. Discussion Item: 3rd Quarter Financial Projection

Dan Ostdiek, Director, Finance Division, State Court Administration, presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Projection.

8. Discussion Item: FY26/27 Biennial Budget Request

Dan Ostdiek, Director, Finance Division, State Court Administration, returned to Judicial Council to discuss what items will be costed out in the future months in development of the FY26/27 biennial budget request and asked if there were any other informational requests from Judicial Council.

A discussion ensued. Questions were raised regarding the budget development strategy. A request was made to gather additional data, such as continuance rates, average hearings per case, reversal rates, and Quality Court Survey results, to inform the Council about the need for additional judges prior to the 2025 Weighted Caseload Study. An additional request was made to compare past legislative compensation requests to see what the Judicial Branch requested and what the legislature provided.

SCAO staff will gather information on the need for additional judges and past compensation requests and return to Council at a later date.

9. Discussion Item: Judicial Council Policy 205.2, New Judge Travel Reimbursement Policy

Dan Ostdiek, Director, Finance Division, State Court Administration, shared proposed revisions to Judicial Council Policy 205.2, New Judge Travel Reimbursement. The proposed revisions would allow Justices of the Supreme Court to be reimbursed for housing expenses of not less than \$1,000 per month, who live 50 miles or more away from permanent chambers in St. Paul. The current policy has the same language for Judges of the Court of Appeals.

There being no objection to acting on the proposed revisions at the current meeting, a motion was made and seconded to approve revisions to Judicial Council Policy 205.2, New Judge Travel Reimbursement. The motion prevailed.

Council Action

The Judicial Council approved revisions to Judicial Council Policy 205.2, New Judge Travel Reimbursement.

10. Discussion Item: Regular meetings with the Association of Minnesota Counties, the County Attorneys Association, and the Public Defenders

Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson and Jeff Shorba, State Court Administrator discussed holding regular meetings with the Association of Minnesota Counties, the County Attorneys Association, and the Public Defenders. Judicial Council members agreed that holding regular meetings will help build and maintain relationships, create open lines of communication and foster goodwill between the agencies.

Judicial Branch staff will begin setting up meetings.

11. Other Business

a. Legislative Update

b. Judicial Council Courthouse Visits

The Judicial Council discussed holding Judicial Council meetings in new or remodeled courthouses. There was general agreement to that the Judicial Council would hold meetings at new or remodeled courthouses one to two times per year. SCAO staff will work with Judicial District Administrators to develop a draft schedule.

c. District Implementation Committee Convener

Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson announced that Chief Judge Stephanie Beckman replaced former Chief Judge Sarah Hennesy as the convener of the District Implementation Committee.

d. Weighted Caseload Chair

Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson announced that Second Judicial District Judge David Brown replaced former Chief Judge Sarah Hennesy as the Weighted Caseload Advisory Committee Chair.

e. 2024 Judicial Election

Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson reminded Judicial Council members of the 2024 Judicial Election timeline.

f. Recognize Departing Member

Justice Hennesy was recognized for her service on the Judicial Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.