

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Michael Buenger, Administrative Director

FROM: Judge Jerome Metz, Committee Chairperson
Hamilton County Common Pleas Court
Tasha Ruth, Manager, Case Management Section

DATE: January 26, 2015

RE: Advisory Committee on Case Management 2014 Annual Report

In accordance with the Operating Guidelines for the Advisory Committee on Case Management, please accept this memo as the Advisory Committee's annual report of its work in 2014.

Created in 2011, the purpose of the Advisory Committee on Case Management is to provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning case management and statistical reporting in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of case management services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and the consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding case management in Ohio courts.

In 2014, the Advisory Committee focused its efforts on the following subject areas:

- (1) Caseload statistical reporting forms and instructions;
- (2) Superintendence Rule 39, Case Time Standards;
- (3) Superintendence Rule 49.02(A), Designation or Assignment of Commercial Docket Judges; and
- (4) Multi-District Litigation Proposal.

A subcommittee was created for each subject area. Each of the subcommittees is chaired by an Advisory Committee member and includes additional Advisory Committee members as well as members from the local court communities (court administrators, magistrates, court staff, and members of the bar). An update for each subject area is provided below.

Caseload Statistical Report Forms and Instructions

The Advisory Committee's six Statistical Reporting Subcommittees, divided by court jurisdiction type, finalized changes to the statistical reporting instructions and corresponding report forms. The caseload statistical reports are used by courts to submit monthly (or quarterly in the case of probate

and appellate courts) statistics to the Case Management Section. Some of the changes include instructions for tracking objections to magistrates' decisions, instructions regarding the tolling of time for purposes of calculating case time standards, and instructions for calculating caseload performance measures. The amended instructions were presented to the Advisory Committee and approved unanimously.

Superintendence Rule 39, Case Time Standards

In light of the Advisory Committee's proposed new time standards, the Advisory Committee created a subcommittee to review Superintendence Rule 39 and make recommendations for its revision. The proposed amendments set forth time to disposition standards for each jurisdiction and are intended to establish a reasonable set of expectations and achievable goals for the courts. The amendments to Superintendence Rule 39 and the new time standards will be presented to the court for its consideration in early 2015.

Superintendence Rule 49.02(A), Designation or Assignment of Commercial Docket Judges

Pursuant to the recently adopted Rules of Superintendence concerning commercial dockets, the Advisory Committee created a subcommittee to review applications from judges seeking to be designated or assigned by the Chief Justice to operate commercial dockets under Superintendence Rule 49.02(A). Following a request to designate Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams to the Commercial Docket in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court the subcommittee undertook an extensive review of this candidate, including a review of her curriculum vitae, communication with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and former law associates, and a telephone interview with the candidate. While very impressed with the work ethic and enthusiasm of Judge Collier-Williams, the subcommittee concluded that it was not appropriate to recommend her for appointment as a commercial docket judge. Based upon the subcommittee's recommendation, the Chief Justice declined to designate Judge Collier-Williams to the Commercial Docket.

Multi-County Litigation Proposal

The Commission on the Rules of Superintendence asked the Advisory Committee to consider a proposal it received which would create a manner in which multi-county litigation would be permitted in the state trial courts in Ohio. The subcommittee reviewed the proposal and recommended the adoption of a Rule of Superintendence creating and governing a MDL program in Ohio. The proposed rule would allow cases filed in multiple counties that contain overlapping factual issues to be consolidated with one judge for pretrial purposes.

As you can see, the Advisory Committee has been working diligently on a number of projects. The members should be commended for their commitment and enthusiasm for the work of the Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your support and the continued opportunity to improve the delivery of court services to the citizens of Ohio. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the Advisory Committee's work.