

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Steven C. Hollon, Administrative Director

FROM: Judge Timothy P. Cannon, 11th District Court of Appeals
Stephanie E. Hess, Director of Court Services

DATE: January 29, 2014

RE: Advisory Committee on Case Management 2013 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 2013.

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 2013, the Advisory Committee focused its efforts on the following subject areas:

- (1) Caseload statistical reporting forms and instructions;
- (2) Superintendence Rule 39, Case Time Limits;
- (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, continue to review the caseload statistical report forms and their corresponding instructions for caseload reporting.

In August 2013, the Advisory Committee created a Joint Subcommittee on Statistical Reporting to review a number of statistical reporting topic areas that are common to multiple jurisdictions. Topics include, but are not limited to, the collection of magistrate caseload data, the reporting of post-dispositional activities (such as probation violation hearings), and the manner in which visiting judge caseload information is tracked and reported. The work of this subcommittee precludes the jurisdictional Statistical Reporting Subcommittees from making recommendations on common topic areas that may be inconsistent with one another and allows those subcommittees to focus on areas which are unique to their particular jurisdictions. It is hoped that the Advisory Committee will have recommendations on the caseload statistical reporting forms and instructions finalized in 2014.

Superintendence Rule 39, Case Time Limits

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 2014.

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). This subcommittee meets on an as needed basis. To date, it has recommended appointment to the Commercial Docket in Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

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. A subcommittee continues to review the proposal.

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.