

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CASE MANAGEMENT

Honorable Jerome J. Metz, Jr.

Hamilton County Common Pleas Court
Chairperson

Honorable Laura J. Gallagher

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
Vice Chairperson

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Russell Brown, Esq.
Judge Kim A. Browne
Judge Timothy Cannon
Judge Rocky A. Coss
Judge Gary Dumm
Judge Richard A. Frye
Lisa M. Gorrasi, Esq.

Judge Michael T. Hall
Judge Tom Pokorny, Retired
Susan Sweeney, Esq.
C. Michael Walsh, Esq.
Judge Curt Werren
Judge Gene A. Zmuda
Judge Joseph J. Zone

Committee Members Absent:

Judge Craig R. Baldwin
Gretchen Beers, Esq.
Judge Anthony Capizzi
Judge Carol J. Dezso, Retired

Judge Kristen K. Johnson
Judge Diane M. Palos
Elizabeth W. Stephenson, Esq.
Judge Terri L. Stupica

Supreme Court of Ohio Staff Members Present:

Michael Buenger, Esq.
Brian Farrington
Stephanie Graubner Nelson, Esq.
Diane Hayes

Stephanie Hess, Esq.
Colleen Rosshirt, Esq.
Tasha Ruth, Esq.

Approval of the October 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2017 meeting was made by Michael Walsh, seconded by Judge Pokorny and approved unanimously.

New Business: Data Dashboard Debut

Brian Farrington presented a draft version of a data dashboard powered by Tableau. This dashboard visually displays the 2.4 million data points collected annually by the Supreme Court of Ohio from local courts. The dashboard is a graphical demonstration of local court caseloads and terminations, from a courtwide and statewide view. This digital platform also includes interactive maps which display information in an easy-to-access manner. The dashboard is proposed to be a public facing tool that could replace the printed version of the annual Ohio Courts Statistical Report.

In addition to replacing the annual report, this tool will assist the public in their requests of caseload information. It was reported by Administrative Director Buenger that the Supreme Court of Ohio receives an average of 15 requests per week for court data; this dashboard would allow for many of these questions to be answered without a formal request for information being made to the Court. All data displayed would be available for export by the user. It was also noted that this tool allows for more transparency, which is a goal of improving the public perception of the judiciary. This tool will also allow courts to better convey to their funding authorities the need for adequate access to resources.

Currently, the dashboard displays court level data but does not display judge level information. The Committee discussed the benefits of the current court-level view compared to a judge-level view.

The Committee recognized the need to educate local court administrators and judicial officers about the dashboard and allow some time for courts to review their stats and, as needed, receive training from the Case Management Section regarding the Instructions for Statistical Reporting. It was suggested that information regarding the dashboard be disseminated at association meetings throughout the remainder of the 2018 calendar year.

Some requests for changes were made by the Committee including: adding a footnote to data collected by courts where one or more Specialized Docket is run and creating an appellate court districts view to allow for the review of cumulative data from counties within each appellate district. These requests will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the next draft of this dashboard, which will be updated for the next ACCM meeting scheduled on Friday May 11, 2018.

A motion recommending the rollout out of this electronic data dashboard by January 1, 2019 was made by Judge Zmuda, seconded by Judge Frye and passed unanimously.

New Business: The Future of the ACCM – see: IAALS’ “Change the Culture, Change the System” article (Group Discussion)

A presentation from Tasha Ruth provided the Committee with examples of pilot projects instituted by the federal government and two states with the aim of making improvements to the court system. Also announced was the Civil Justice Initiative Workshops being held May 14 (Akron) and May 16 (Columbus). The Civil Justice Initiative uses a “pathway assignment,” where highly skilled staff persons aid in the management of cases allowing the judge to spend time conducting judicial activities related to the caseload.

The Committee discussed ways for Ohio courts to test innovative systems, similar to that which is being piloted at the federal level. There was agreement that education of attorneys and law students about the importance of case management and their role in this process is a priority. There was also discussion regarding options for encouraging courts to find new means for performance, such as sanctions for underperformance. Other suggestions included a tool to guide a judge as to a recommended number of cases to set in a given period of time, however this may be difficult given the different needs of rural and urban courts. Some conversation regarding partnership between this Committee and other innovative groups, like the OSBA, may be another route for pilot projects. The increasing demand of the public to solve cases quickly, perhaps through technology, was also discussed.

The Committee agreed to review these ideas and return to the next Commission meeting with substantive, specific pilot project ideas.

Update on Superintendence Rule 36 – Case Assignment for Trial Courts

Judge Frye reported that Sup.R. 36 was adopted and went in to effect on January 1, 2018.

Update on Superintendence Rule 36 – Case Assignment for Appellate Courts

Judge Cannon and Tasha Ruth reported that Sup.R. 36 as it relates to appellate courts will be presented to the Justices during their May 8, 2018 conference, for approval to post this rule for public comment.

Update on Superintendence Rule 39 – Case Time Standards

Judge Metz reported that Sup.R. 39 was tabled indefinitely after review by the Justices. Administrative Director Buenger added information that the Court would like complete their own internal time standards before changing the time standards of Ohio courts.

Update from Case Management Section (Tasha)

- a. ACMS RFP
 - i. A replacement Appellate Case Management System is being sought; there were five vendors that responded to the request for proposals. These five vendors were invited to give presentations to a small committee. This

committee will make a recommendation of its top two or three vendors. A final recommendation is forthcoming.

- b. Civil Justice Initiative – May 2018
 - i. Civil Justice Initiative workshops will be held in Akron on May 14, 2018 and in Columbus on May 16, 2018. Courts are asked to bring teams to this meeting to develop civil case management teams.
- c. Statistical Report Training/Updates
 - i. An online webinar for Statistical Reporting, Form D was completed by the Case Management Section in January, 2018. Additional webinars for reporting in each jurisdiction will be delivered through the calendar year. The goal of these training sessions is to ensure accurate case statistical reporting.

II. Future meeting dates

- a. Friday, May 11, 2018
- b. Friday, August 10, 2018
- c. Friday, October 19, 2018