

The Supreme Court of Ohio

Improving Court Operations Using Remote Technology (iCOURT) Task Force Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2021

Task Force Members in Attendance: Hon. Rocky Coss (*Chair*), Mag. Serpil Ergun (*Vice Chair*), Justice R. Patrick DeWine, Hon. Craig Baldwin, Hon. Theresa Dellick, Douglas Eaton, Hon. Ian English, Hon. Jonathan Hein, Robert Incorvati, Sandra Kurt, Nick Lockhart, Haley Martinelli, Velta Moisiso, Theresa Nelson, Mag. Paul Rattermann, Elizabeth Stephenson, Mag. Kenneth Teleis, Lori Tyack, Hon. James Walther, and Nikole Xarhoulacos (representing Kelli Howard).

Staff in Attendance: David Edelblute, Brian Farrington, Jeff Hagler, Stephanie Nelson, Kyana Pierson, Colleen Rosshirt, Robert Stuart, and Lizett Schrieber

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the January 8th meeting were approved.

Report on Litigant Survey: Brian Farrington presented the results of the litigant survey. Initially, the target audience was self-represented litigants; however it was expanded to include those who had representation. Highlights of the survey demonstrated that represented litigants preferred remote hearings. This could be due to a cost-savings that they may have experienced or explanation of the process by their attorney. Self-represented litigants reported a need for clearer instructions. The results should be read with caution as only those litigants with access to the internet were able to participate.

Approval of Proposed Rule Changes: Due to the timeline of the rule-making process, the Task Force sought approval of the Supreme Court to submit its recommended changes to the Rules of Court to the Commission on the Rules of Practice & Procedure and the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence prior to the release of its final report. The Task Force reviewed and voted on the proposed rule changes.

- Changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure: Motion to approve by Judge Dellick; second by Elizabeth Stephenson. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Changes to the Rules of Criminal Procedure: Motion to approve by Judge Hein; second by Elizabeth Stephenson. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Changes to the Rules of Evidence: Motion to approve by Judge English; second by Ken Teleis. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Changes to the Rules of Juvenile Procedure: Motion to approve by Judge Walther; seconded by Judge Dellick. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Changes to the Rules of Superintendence: Motion to approve by Judge English; second by Ken Teleis. Motion was unanimously approved. Judge Hein recommended that the local rule requirement allow flexibility and the ability of courts to stay current.

Review of Review of Recommendations: Kyana Pierson reviewed the list of non-rule related final recommendations for the report dealing with court operations, minimum technology standards, conducting a remote hearing, jurisdiction specific recommendations, and evaluation.

Next Steps: The initial draft of the report will be completed by April 1st and the final draft will be finished by May 7th.

The next meeting will be held virtually on May 14, 2021. Time TBD.