

The Supreme Court of Ohio

GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF SUPREME COURT BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES

In meeting its constitutional responsibilities, the Supreme Court may find it necessary to utilize the assistance of boards, commissions, advisory committees, and task forces to assist the Court in reviewing issues and topics involving the law, courts, the legal profession, the judicial system, or the administration of justice.

These guidelines are adopted by the Court to establish consistent standards and expectations regarding the creation and operation of such bodies by the Court and the Chief Justice.

These guidelines have not been adopted as rules pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution and should not be construed as requiring adoption.

1.1. Boards.

Boards may be formed to exercise quasi-judicial authority or decision-making responsibility on behalf of the Court or to exercise quasi-fiduciary responsibility on behalf of the Court regarding the law, courts, the legal profession, the judicial system, or the administration of justice.

Boards are to be created by and operate under rules adopted by the Court. Board members serve by appointment of the Chief Justice and Justices or by virtue of holding a position within or upon nomination of a group, organization, or association.

1.2. Commissions.

Commissions may be formed to exercise quasi-ministerial authority on behalf of the Court or to operate as standing committees on issues and topics that are significant in their nature and scope regarding the law, courts, the legal profession, the judicial system, or the administration of justice.

Commissions are to be created by and operate under rules or regulations adopted by the Court. Commission members serve by appointment of the Chief Justice and Justices or by virtue of holding a position within or upon nomination of a group, organization, or association.

1.3. Advisory Committees.

Advisory committees may be formed to provide advice and assistance to the Court and Court staff on topics of general public interest or newly emerging issues that are

significant to the law, courts, the legal profession, the judicial system, or the administration of justice.

Advisory committees are to be created by and at the direction of the Chief Justice, with notice to the Court. Advisory committees may also be created by the Chief Justice at the request of a Justice.

Advisory committees operate at the pleasure of the Chief Justice and may be created and disbanded solely at the Chief Justice's discretion. Advisory committee members are appointed by or with the approval of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall establish guidelines for the operation of advisory committees to aid them in their deliberations.

1.4. Task Forces.

Task forces may be formed to review a specific issue or topic involving the law, courts, the legal profession, the judicial system, or the administration of justice and to issue a final report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations on that issue or topic within a time period established by the Chief Justice.

Task forces are to be created by and at the direction of the Chief Justice, with notice to the Court. Task forces may also be created by the Chief Justice at the request of a Justice.

Task force members are appointed by or with the approval of the Chief Justice. A task force shall cease to exist upon the issuance of its final report. The Chief Justice shall establish guidelines for the operation of task forces to aid them in their deliberations.

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