

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF GOVERNANCE

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SECTION 1. CASE MANAGEMENT SECTION.

RULE 1.00. Case Management Section.

There shall be a case management section of the supreme court. The case management section shall have the authority and responsibility to do all of the following:

- (A) Receive, analyze, maintain, audit, and publish, at the direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, statistical data from the courts of Ohio, including an annual compilation of the reports required by Sup.R. 5.30;
- (B) Assist and train judges, court administrators, clerks, and other court personnel in performing the reporting functions required by these rules;
- (C) Monitor statistical reporting by conducting audits of the various courts in accordance with statistical auditing standards and procedures;
- (D) Review audit results with judges and court personnel;
- (E) Prepare and provide an implementation manual that contains commentary and explanatory material pertaining to these rules and the report forms required by these rules;
- (F) Make ongoing recommendations regarding both of the following:
 - (1) Amendments to the Rules of Superintendence in order that the rules remain current with changes in the law;
 - (2) Auditing standards and procedures so that the Case Management Section can effectively accomplish its stated objectives.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 1997)

(Transferred Commentary from July 1, 1997, from Sup.R. 35)

The purpose of creating the Case Management Section is to provide the administrative staff, structure and procedure to implement the goals set forth in Sup.R. 1.00. In addition, the Case Management Section assists the administrative judges in resolving docket problems within their courts that the administrative judge has been unable to resolve at the local level.

The intent of conducting audits is to ensure uniform, accurate, and timely reporting of statistical information by all courts. One of the primary responsibilities of the Case Management Section is to provide continuing education and in-depth training for judges and court personnel in the proper preparation of statistical reports.

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 35 was renumbered to Rule 1.00 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

SECTION 2. GOVERNMENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES PROGRAM.

RULE 2.00. Government Conflict Resolution Services Program.

(A) Creation

There is hereby established the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program. The program shall assist local and county public officials in resolving and preventing conflicts concerning administrative matters, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Fiscal and budget issues;
- (2) Operations management issues;
- (3) Facilities maintenance issues;
- (4) Other organizational issues.

(B) Services

The Government Conflict Resolution Services Program shall provide mediation, facilitation, and neutral evaluation at no cost.

(C) Uniform Mediation Act

Mediation conducted by the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program shall be governed by Chapter 2710 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R.16.40 was renumbered to Rule 2.00 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 2.01. Privilege.

(A) General and exception

Except as provided in R.C. 2710.05, mediation communications in connection with the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program are privileged pursuant to R.C. 2710.03.

(B) Waiver

Mediation communications in connection with the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program may be waived pursuant to R.C. 2710.04.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.41 was renumbered to Rule 2.01 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 2.02. Confidentiality.

(A) General

Mediation communications in connection with the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program are confidential pursuant to R.C. 2710.07. No one shall disclose such communications unless all mediation parties and the mediator consent to disclosure in writing or on the record in open court.

(B) Exceptions to confidentiality

Mediation parties may share mediation communications with their attorneys.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.42 was renumbered to Rule 2.02 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 2.03. Public Access to Information.

Information collected from or generated by participating parties in connection with the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program shall not be available for public access pursuant to Sup.R. 11.09 through 11.16.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.43 was renumbered to Rule 2.03 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

SECTION 3. COMMISSIONS.

RULE 3.00. Creation of Commission on Dispute Resolution.

There is hereby created by the Supreme Court the Commission on Dispute Resolution.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16 was renumbered to Rule 3.00 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.01. Duties and Authority.

(A) Duties

- (1) The Commission on Dispute Resolution shall advise the Supreme Court and its staff on all of the following:
 - (a) The promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the use of dispute resolution in Ohio courts;
 - (b) The development and delivery of dispute resolution education and professional development activities for judges, magistrates, court personnel, attorneys, and court-affiliated dispute resolution professionals;
 - (c) The development and delivery of dispute resolution services for disputes arising among county and local public officials throughout Ohio;
 - (d) The consideration of any other issues the commission deems necessary to assist the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the development and delivery of dispute resolution programs and services.
- (2) The Commission on Dispute Resolution shall operate the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program pursuant to Rules 2.00 through 2.03.

(B) Authority

The commission shall have no independent policy-setting authority.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.01 was renumbered to Rule 3.01 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.02. Membership.

(A) Appointments

The Commission on Dispute Resolution shall consist of the following twenty-one members appointed by the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court:

- (1) Three members who shall be sitting or retired judges;
- (2) One member who shall be a judge of a court of appeals nominated by the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals;
- (3) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas with general jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association;
- (4) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas with probate jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges;
- (5) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas with juvenile jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges;
- (6) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas with domestic relations jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges;
- (7) One member who shall be a judge of a municipal or county court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio;
- (8) Two members, each of whom shall be a full-time magistrate with an Ohio court, nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates;
- (9) One member nominated by the Director of the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (formerly known as the Superintendent of Public Instruction);
- (10) Two members nominated by the President of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio;
- (11) Two members, neither of whom shall be a judge or county commissioner, nominated by the President of the Ohio Council of County Officials;
- (12) Two members nominated by the President of the Ohio Municipal League;

- (13) One member nominated by the President of the Ohio State Bar Association;
- (14) One member nominated by the President of the Ohio Mediation Association;
- (15) One at-large member.

(B) Nominations

The Administrative Director of the Supreme Court shall solicit a minimum of two nominees from each individual responsible for nominating a member of the commission pursuant to divisions (A)(2) through (14) of this rule.

(C) Qualifications

Each commission member shall have an appreciation for the importance of the use of dispute resolution to resolve disputes, which may include education or experience in dispute resolution.

(D) Composition

Commission membership should be broad based and multidisciplinary to represent a cross section of interests related to dispute resolution and reflect the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.02 was renumbered to Rule 3.02 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.03. Terms and Vacancies.

(A) Initial terms

Initial terms for members of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall be as follows:

- (1) One of the members who is a sitting or retired judge, the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas with general jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas with juvenile jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges, the member who is a judge of a municipal or county court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio, one of the members nominated by the President of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, one of the members nominated by the President of the Ohio Municipal League, and the member nominated by the President of the Ohio Mediation Association shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2012;
- (2) One of the members who is a sitting or retired judge, the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas with probate jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges, the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas with domestic relations jurisdiction nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, one of the members who is a full-time magistrate with an Ohio court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates, the member nominated by the Director of the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (formerly known as the Superintendent of Public Instruction), one of the members nominated by the President of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, one of the members nominated by the President of the Ohio Council of County Officials, and the member nominated by the President of the Ohio State Bar Association shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2013;
- (3) One of the members who is a sitting judge, the member who is a judge of a court of appeals nominated by the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, one of the members who is a full-time magistrate with an Ohio court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates, one of the members nominated by the president of the Ohio Council of County Officials, one of the members nominated by the President of the Ohio Municipal League, and the at-large member shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2014.

(B) Subsequent terms and reappointment

Except as provided in division (A) of this rule, the term of a commission member shall be for three years. A commission member shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not serve more than three consecutive full terms. A commission member shall be eligible for reappointment after serving three consecutive full terms, but only upon at least a one-year break in service. Abbreviated initial terms and appointments to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a full term.

(C) Judge, magistrate, and attorney vacancies

- (1) If a commission member who is a judge involuntarily leaves office by reason other than Article IV, Section 6(C) of the Ohio Constitution, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.
- (2) If a commission member who is a magistrate ceases to serve as a full-time magistrate with an Ohio court, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.
- (3) If a commission member who is an attorney no longer practices in Ohio, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.

(D) Filling of vacancies

Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. A commission member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold the position for the remainder of that term.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.03 was renumbered to Rule 3.03 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.04. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

The members of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall elect one member as chairperson and one member as vice-chairperson. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall serve for two years and may be reelected to a second two-year term. A commission member shall not serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson for more than two consecutive full terms, provided elections to fill a vacancy in the position of chairperson or vice-chairperson shall not constitute a full term.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.04 was renumbered to Rule 3.04 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.05. Secretary.

The Administrative Director of the Supreme Court shall assign a Supreme Court employee to serve as secretary to the Commission on Dispute Resolution. The commission secretary shall assist the commission as necessary, but shall at all times be considered a Supreme Court employee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.05 was renumbered to Rule 3.05 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.06. Meetings.

(A) Manner

The Commission on Dispute Resolution may meet in person or by telephonic or other electronic means available to the Supreme Court.

(B) Frequency

The commission shall meet as often as required to complete its work, provided the commission shall meet a minimum of two times per year. The commission may meet at the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority of the commission members.

(C) Scheduling

All commission meetings shall be scheduled for a time and place so as to minimize costs to the Supreme Court and to be accessible to commission members, Supreme Court staff, and the public.

(D) Public attendance and notice

All commission meetings shall be open to the public. Public notice of all commission meetings shall be provided on the Supreme Court's website.

(E) Member attendance

For a fully effective commission, a commission member shall make a good faith effort to attend each commission meeting. The commission secretary shall notify the Chief Justice and the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court if a commission member misses three meetings of the commission within a twelve-month period. Upon such notice, the Administrative Director shall inform the Justices of the Supreme Court in order that the Justices may consider the replacement of the member.

(F) Minutes

Minutes shall be kept at every commission meeting and distributed to the commission members for review prior to and approval at the next meeting.

(G) Quorum

There shall be a quorum of the commission present when a majority of commission members is present for the meeting, including those members participating by telephonic or other electronic means.

(H) Actions

At any commission meeting at which a quorum is present, the commission members may take action by affirmative vote of a majority of the members in attendance.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.06 was renumbered to Rule 3.06 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.07. Subcommittees.

(A) Creation

The Commission on Dispute Resolution may form such subcommittees it believes necessary to complete the work of the commission. A subcommittee should consist of select commission members and such other persons who the chairperson believes will assist in a full exploration of the issue under the review of the subcommittee.

(B) Size

A subcommittee should remain relatively small in size, not exceeding eight to twelve members, and have a ratio of commission members to non-commission members not exceeding one to three.

(C) Application of rules

Rules 3.05, 3.06(A) through (D), (G), and (H), 3.08, 3.10 through 3.13 shall also apply to the work of a subcommittee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.07 was renumbered to Rule 3.07 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.08. Code of Ethics.

Members of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall comply with the Supreme Court's *Code of Ethics for Court Appointees*. The commission secretary shall provide each commission member with a copy of the code following the member's appointment to the commission and thereafter at the first meeting each year of the commission.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.08 was renumbered to Rule 3.08 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.09. Annual Report.

By January 31st of each year, the chairperson of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall issue a report to the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court detailing the activities and accomplishments of the commission during the previous calendar year. The chairperson shall submit the report to the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court for publication on the Supreme Court's website and distribution to the Chief Justice and Justices.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.09 was renumbered to Rule 3.09 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.10. Work Product.

The work product of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall be the property of the Supreme Court.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.10 was renumbered to Rule 3.10 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.11. Budget.

The budget of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall be set by the Supreme Court through its internal budget process and as implemented by the Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Section. The commission shall have no authority to set its own budget.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.11 was renumbered to Rule 3.11 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.12. Compensation.

A member of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall serve without compensation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.12 was renumbered to Rule 3.12 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.13. Reimbursement of Expenses.

A member of the Commission on Dispute Resolution shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service to the commission as permitted by the Supreme Court's *Guidelines for Travel by Court Appointees*.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 16.13 was renumbered to Rule 3.13 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.14. [RESERVED]

RULE 3.15. Creation of Commission on Specialized Dockets.

There is hereby created by the Supreme Court the Commission on Specialized Dockets.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.02 was renumbered to Rule 3.15 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.16. Duties and Authority.

(A) Duties

The Commission on Specialized Dockets shall advise the Supreme Court and its staff on all of the following:

- (1) The promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts;
- (2) The development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel;
- (3) The consideration of any other issues the commission deems necessary to assist the Supreme Court and its staff regarding specialized dockets in Ohio courts.

(B) Authority

The commission shall have no independent policy-setting authority.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.03 was renumbered to Rule 3.16 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.17. Membership.

(A) Appointments

The Commission on Specialized Dockets shall consist of the following twenty-two members appointed by the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court:

- (1) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges;
- (2) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile family dependency treatment docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges;
- (3) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges;
- (4) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges;
- (5) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association;
- (6) One member who shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association;
- (7) Two members, each of whom shall be a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a specialized docket of the court, nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association;
- (8) One member who shall be a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio;
- (9) One member who shall be a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio;
- (10) Three members, each of whom shall be a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a specialized docket of the court, nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio;

- (11) One member who shall be a magistrate of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates;
- (12) One member who shall be a magistrate of a court of common pleas assigned to a family dependency treatment docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates;
- (13) One member who shall be a prosecutor nominated by the Executive Director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association or the President of the Ohio Municipal Prosecuting Attorneys Association;
- (14) One member who shall be a public defender nominated by the Director of the Ohio Public Defender Office;
- (15) One member who shall be an adult probation officer nominated by the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association;
- (16) One member who shall be a juvenile probation officer nominated by the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association;
- (17) One program coordinator;
- (18) Two at-large members.

(B) Nominations

The administrative director of the supreme court shall solicit a minimum of two nominees from each individual responsible for nominating a member of the commission pursuant to division (A) of this rule.

(C) Qualifications

Each commission member shall be a member of a treatment team established pursuant to Sup.R. 7.20(A).

(D) Composition

Commission membership should be broad based and multidisciplinary to represent a cross section of interests related to specialized dockets and reflect the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.04 was renumbered to Rule 3.17 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.18. Terms and Vacancies.

(A) Initial terms

Initial terms for members of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall be as follows:

- (1) The member who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges; the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges; one of the members who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association; the member who is a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio; one of the members who is a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio; the member who is a prosecutor nominated by the Executive Director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association or the President of the Ohio Municipal Prosecuting Attorneys Association; the member who is a juvenile probation officer nominated by the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association; and one of the at-large members shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2013;
- (2) The member who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile family dependency treatment docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges; the member who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association; one of the members who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association; one of the members who is a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio; the member who is a magistrate of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates; the member who is a public defender nominated by the Director of the Ohio Public Defender Office; and the program coordinator shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2014;
- (3) The member who is a judge of a court of common pleas assigned to a juvenile mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges; the member who is a judge of

a court of common pleas assigned to a mental health docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association; the member who is a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a drug docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio; one of the members who is a judge of a municipal or county court assigned to a specialized docket of the court nominated by the President of the Association of Municipal / County Judges of Ohio; the member who is a magistrate of a court of common pleas assigned to a family dependency treatment docket of the court nominated by the President of the Ohio Association of Magistrates; the member who is an adult probation officer nominated by the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association; and one of the at-large members shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2015.

(B) Subsequent terms and reappointment

Except as provided in division (A) of this rule, the term of a commission member shall be for three years. A commission member shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not serve more than three consecutive full terms. A commission member shall be eligible for reappointment after serving three consecutive full terms, but only upon at least a one-year break in service. Abbreviated initial terms and appointments to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a full term.

(C) Judge, magistrate, and attorney vacancies

- (1) If a commission member who is a judge involuntarily leaves office by reason other than Article IV, Section 6(C) of the Ohio Constitution, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.
- (2) If a commission member who is a magistrate ceases to serve as a magistrate with an Ohio court, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.
- (3) If a commission member who is an attorney no longer practices in Ohio, the member shall be disqualified and a vacancy shall occur.

(D) Filling of vacancies

Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. A commission member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold the position for the remainder of that term.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.05 was renumbered to Rule 3.18 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.19. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

The members of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall elect one member as chairperson and one member as vice-chairperson. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall serve for two years and may be reelected to a second two-year term. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall not serve in that position for more than two consecutive full terms, provided elections to fill a vacancy in the position of chairperson or vice-chairperson shall not constitute a full term.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.06 was renumbered to Rule 3.19 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.20. Staff Support.

The Administrative Director of the Supreme Court shall assign to the Commission on Specialized Dockets one or more Supreme Court employees as may be necessary for the commission's work. The Supreme Court employee shall assist the commission as necessary, but shall at all times be considered an employee of the Supreme Court.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.07 was renumbered to Rule 3.20 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.21. Meetings.

(A) Manner

The Commission on Specialized Dockets may meet in person or by telephonic or other electronic means available to the Supreme Court.

(B) Frequency

The commission shall meet as often as required to complete its work, provided the commission shall meet in person a minimum of two times per year. The commission may meet at the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority of the commission members.

(C) Scheduling

All commission meetings shall be scheduled for a time and place so as to minimize costs to the Supreme Court and to be accessible to commission members, Supreme Court staff, and the public.

(D) Public attendance and notice

All commission meetings shall be open to the public. Public notice of all commission meetings shall be provided on the Supreme Court's website.

(E) Member attendance

- (1) For a fully effective commission, a commission member shall make a good faith effort to attend, in person, by telephone, or by other electronic means, each commission meeting. The Supreme Court employee who staffs the commission shall notify the Chief Justice and the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court if a commission member misses three meetings of the commission within a twelve-month period. Upon such notice, the Administrative Director shall inform the Justices of the Supreme Court in order that the Justices may consider the replacement of the member.
- (2) A commission member may not designate a replacement for participation in meetings.

(F) Minutes

Minutes shall be kept at every commission meeting and distributed to the commission members for review prior to and approval at the next meeting.

(G) Quorum

There shall be a quorum of the commission present when a majority of commission members is present for the meeting, including those members participating by telephonic or other electronic means.

(H) Actions

At any commission meeting at which a quorum is present, the commission members may take action by affirmative vote of a majority of the members in attendance.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.08 was renumbered to Rule 3.21 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.22. Subcommittees.

(A) Creation

The Commission on Specialized Dockets may form such subcommittees it believes necessary to complete the work of the commission. A subcommittee should consist of select commission members and such other persons who the chairperson believes will assist in a full exploration of the issue under the review of the subcommittee.

(B) Size

A subcommittee should remain relatively small in size, not exceeding eight to twelve members, and have a ratio of commission members to non-commission members not exceeding one to three.

(C) Application of rules

Rules 3.20, 3.21(A) through (D), (G), and (H), 3.23, and 3.25 through 3.28 shall also apply to the work of a subcommittee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.09 was renumbered to Rule 3.22 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.23. Code of Ethics.

Members of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall comply with the requirements of the Supreme Court's *Code of Ethics for Court Appointees*. The Supreme Court employee who staffs the commission shall provide each commission member with a copy of the code following the member's appointment to the commission and thereafter at the first meeting each year of the commission.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.10 was renumbered to Rule 3.23 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.24. Annual Report.

By January 31st of each year, the chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall issue a report to the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court detailing the activities and accomplishments of the commission during the previous calendar year. The chairperson shall submit the report to the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court for publication on the Supreme Court's website and distribution to the Chief Justice and Justices.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.11 was renumbered to Rule 3.24 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.25. Work Product.

The work product of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall be the property of the Supreme Court.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.12 was renumbered to Rule 3.25 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.26. Budget.

The budget of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall be set by the Supreme Court through its internal budget process and as implemented by the Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Section. The commission shall have no authority to set its own budget.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.13 was renumbered to Rule 3.26 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.27. Compensation.

A member of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall serve without compensation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.14 was renumbered to Rule 3.27 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.

RULE 3.28. Reimbursement of Expenses.

A member of the Commission on Specialized Dockets shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service to the commission as permitted by the Supreme Court's *Guidelines for Travel by Court Appointees*.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Commentary (July 1, 2026)

Sup.R. 36.15 was renumbered to Rule 3.28 and moved to the Administrative Rules of Governance as part of the 2026 restructuring of the Rules of Superintendence.