

Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee

Meeting #8 – Minutes

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Videoconference (Zoom)

Members in Attendance

Judge Jonathan Gerber, 4th DCA (Chair)
Judge Linda Nobles, 1st Circuit
Chief Judge Shawn Crane, 6th Circuit
Judge Keith Carsten, 9th Circuit
Judge Christopher Kelly, 7th Circuit
Chief Judge Diana Moreland, 12th Circuit
Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, 15th Circuit
Judge Margaret Steinbeck, 20th Circuit
Judge Robert Lee, Broward County
State Attorney Melissa Nelson, 4th Circuit
Public Defender Carlos Martinez, 11th Circuit
Clerk Stacy Butterfield, Polk County
Mr. Braxton Gillam, J.D., Jacksonville
Mr. Laird Lile, J.D., Naples

OSCA Staff Present

Eric Maclure
Erica White
Dustin Metz
Maggie Lewis
Andrew Johns
Susan Emmanuel
Caitlin McCaffrey
Kelsey Harper

Others Present

Lisa Kiel
Paul Flemming

Member(s) Not in Attendance

N/A

I. Welcome/Opening Remarks

Judge Gerber welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the meeting was being recorded. He noted an amendment to the workplan – specifically, the meeting held on November 17, 2023, was struck through now that it has occurred.

II. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Judge Kelly moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2023, meeting, and Judge Nobles seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

III. Presentation and Approval of Final Report

Judge Gerber explained that the meeting materials included two copies of the draft report. The first copy details all revisions made to the draft report that was presented at the November 17, 2023, meeting, which include revisions discussed during that meeting, suggestions made by Committee members after

the meeting, and technical edits made by staff. The second copy of the revised report is a clean version that includes the appendix.

Committee members did not recommend any edits to the revised draft. Mr. Lile moved to approve the revised draft as the final report, while also authorizing Judge Gerber and staff of the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) latitude to make additional technical edits before the report is submitted to the chief justice on December 1, 2023. Public Defender Martinez seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, members unanimously approved the motion.

IV. Other Business

Judge Gerber concluded the meeting by thanking House Speaker Renner for entrusting the judicial branch with his request to study the issue of consolidation. He also thanked Chief Justice Muñiz and the Supreme Court for establishing the Committee and entrusting it to conduct the analysis; The Florida Bar for circulating the Committee's professional survey to members of the Bar; the thousands of people who provided input to the Committee through surveys, public testimony, and written correspondence; the Ninth and Thirteenth Judicial Circuits for hosting the Committee's in-person hearings; and the hundreds of people who regularly registered and watched the Committee's meetings and deliberations. Judge Gerber also thanked OSCA staff for their support. Finally, he expressed gratitude to the Committee members for their time, effort, and outstanding work on this project.

Chief Judge Crane offered his thanks to Judge Gerber for his leadership as chair.

Without objection, and there being no further business, Judge Gerber moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Crane seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Committee Meeting: N/A