

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Stephanie Hess, Interim Administrative Director
Stephanie Nelson, Director of Court Services

FROM: Honorable Craig R. Baldwin, Committee Chairperson
Fifth District Court of Appeals

Honorable Beth Cappelli, Committee Vice Chairperson
Fairborn Municipal Court

Colleen Rosshirt, Manager, Case Management Section

DATE: December 31, 2021

RE: Advisory Committee on Case Management 2021 Annual Report

In accordance with the Operating Guidelines for the Advisory Committee on Case Management, please accept this memo as the Advisory Committee's annual report of its work in 2021.

Created in 2011, the purpose of the Advisory Committee on Case Management (ACCM) is to provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning case management and statistical reporting in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of case management services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and the consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding case management in Ohio courts.

In 2021, the Advisory Committee focused its efforts on the following subject areas:

- (1) Superintendence Rule 39, Time Standards;
- (2) Appellate Courts, including:
 - a. Adoption of Appellate Case Management System; and
 - b. Appellate Data Dashboard.
- (3) Access & Fairness Pilot Project;
- (4) Criminal Backlog Solutions; and
- (5) Local Court Caseflow Management.

Superintendence Rule 39, Time Standards

The reporting time standard for Permanent Custody cases filed in the juvenile court division was modified from nine months (270 days) to 6.7 months (200 days), with approval by the Justices. This change was made to align the reporting time standards with R.C. 2151.414(A).

Appellate Courts

Adoption of Appellate Case Management System

The appellate court administrators, Court Services and Court's IT staff developed the functionality of a new case management system called C-Track, from Thompson Reuters. This case management system replaces the previous system which was built and maintained by the Supreme Court. The Second, Sixth, and Seventh Districts piloted the system and the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Districts joined in during the calendar year. The Eighth and Tenth have no plans to join currently. Planning for a revised Individual Judge report is taking place during early 2022 with an updated report expected mid-year 2022.

Appellate Data Dashboard

The data dashboard was created by the Supreme Court as a digital platform with easy-to-access displays that allow for the graphical demonstration of local court caseloads and terminations. The dashboards were first created to display trial court data. The inclusion of appellate court case data has been developed and went live during the first quarter of 2021.

Access & Fairness Pilot Project

The National Center for State Courts has expanded its pilot project in Ohio to test the redesigned CourTools Measure 1, Access and Fairness Survey. This updated tool now measures court user's satisfaction with virtual hearings, as well as conducting business with the court in a virtual environment. Access to the survey is available through a smart phone or computer. Additional sites are collecting data through January 2022 and a final report will be made in June 2022.

Criminal Backlogs Solutions

The rising overage rates in the felony criminal divisions spurred a project to host focus groups with judges who have historically maintained low overage rates, even during the pandemic. A total of seventeen judges were invited to attend meetings, along with any staff they identified as key to maintaining a timely docket. The findings from these meetings will be summarized and publicized in early 2022 to provide ideas and assistance to those seeking to improve their caseload practices.

Local Court Caseload Management

Case Management staff provided technical assistance to local trial and appellate court judges, magistrates, clerk and staff by way of remote statistical reporting training, process mapping sessions to review system efficiency, and full-scale case management reviews of court workflows. Considering the pandemic, courts were particularly interested in topics related to maximizing docket time with the purpose of reducing backlogs and using pathway assignments to ensure right-sized case management resources are applied to individual cases with the purpose of reducing time to disposition.

As you can see, the Advisory Committee has been working diligently on several projects. The members should be commended for their commitment and enthusiasm. Thank you for your support and the continued opportunity to improve the delivery of court services to the citizens of Ohio. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the Advisory Committee's work.