

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN RE: §
§
THE JUDICIAL STRATEGIES §
COMMITTEE §

ORDER

This 21st day of May 2015, it appears that:

The Courts have long recognized the need for strategic planning to sustain the effective and efficient operations of the Courts and administration of justice. To accomplish this, Chief Justice Daniel F. Wolcott created the Long Range Courts Planning Committee in 1970 to address the planning needs for the Delaware Courts composed of judges from the various courts and members of the Delaware Bar.

In 1977, Chief Justice Daniel L. Herrmann reorganized the Committee to broaden its scope to include “an opportunity for the thoughtful formulation and active support of plans and programs for the improvement of the Delaware Court System.” Over the course of several decades, the Committee supported the work of the Courts in administering justice in this State, including the enactment of important legislative initiatives, but ceased to function approximately 15 years ago.

In its place, Chief Justice Myron T. Steele established the Judiciary’s “Legislative Team,” composed of representatives of all courts and the

Administrative Office of the Courts, to develop and implement the Judiciary's strategic legislative agenda each year and to coordinate the Judiciary's responses to proposed legislation that may affect the courts. The Legislative Team deepened collaboration among courts and their staffs and helped ensure more timely Judicial Branch participation in legislation affecting the administration of justice.

The Long Range Planning Committee and the Legislative Team each focused on specific administrative tasks assigned by the Chief Justice, consistent with the Chief Justice's authority as administrative head of the Delaware Courts under the Delaware Constitution, Article IV, § 13. By building on the respective strengths of these approaches, the Judiciary may address future challenges even more effectively.

Now more than ever, the Delaware Courts are faced with important policy decisions and fiscal issues that require focus on long term strategies and planning to identify emerging trends and legislative and other issues that may affect the courts and the delivery of justice in the future.

Bench and Bar collaboration is a hallmark of Delaware's legal tradition and, given the challenges ahead for the Courts and the legal community, there are benefits to further enhancing that collaboration in order to make a strong judicial system an even better one.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. As of July 1, 2015, there shall be established the Judicial Strategies Committee (the “Committee”) which shall implement a long-term strategic planning approach for the Delaware Courts that will facilitate the identification of legislative and other issues, and emerging trends affecting the Delaware Courts and the justice system in Delaware, and the development of policy-oriented and legislative solutions to address identified issues.
2. Members of the Committee shall include:
 - the Chief Justice, *ex officio*
 - A Justice of the Supreme Court, *ex officio* and appointed by the Chief Justice
 - Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, *ex officio*
 - President Judge of the Superior Court, *ex officio*
 - Chief Judge of the Family Court, *ex officio*
 - Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, *ex officio*
 - Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court, *ex officio*
 - State Court Administrator, *ex officio*
 - Current President of the Delaware State Bar Association, *ex officio*
 - Immediate Past President of the Delaware State Bar Association, *ex officio*
 - Co-Chairs, Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature, *ex officio*
 - Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, *ex officio*
 - Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, appointed by the Chief Justice in consultation with the Minority Leader
 - Chair, House Judiciary Committee, *ex officio*
 - Member, House Judiciary Committee, appointed by the Chief Justice in consultation with the Minority Leader
 - Additional members appointed by the Chief Justice to represent the legal community and other important perspectives.

3. Membership shall vary depending upon the strategic needs of the Judiciary at specific points of time. Members shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Chief Justice.
4. The Co-Chairs shall be one of the members of the Bar appointed by the Chief Justice, and the State Court Administrator, with the Chief Justice serving *ex officio* as Chair.
5. A Working Group of the Committee shall be established to address urgent or implementation issues related to the work of the Committee, and to fulfill the day-to-day issues handled previously by the Legislative Team. The Working Group shall function under the authority of the Chief Justice and Co-Chairs of the Committee. The State Court Administrator, or other person designated by the Chief Justice, shall serve as the Chair of the Working Group, and staff representatives of all of the Courts shall serve as its members. The Working Group may involve other members of the Committee, or other persons, in its activities, as needed.

/s/ Leo E. Strine, Jr.
Chief Justice