

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 136

This 9th day of January, 2002,

IT APPEARING THAT:

- (1) The Delaware Judiciary excels in jurisprudence and innovative techniques as they apply to its core function of resolving disputes;
- (2) It is particularly important that the Judicial Branch of government in Delaware continue to improve its business plans and practices to enhance the effectiveness of the Delaware Judiciary in maintaining its international preeminence;
- (3) Appropriations from the General Fund to the Judicial Branch of government for the operating budget are the expected source of funding for resources necessary to enable the Judicial Branch to serve the citizens of Delaware, but the maximum funds that the General Assembly is able to appropriate are often inadequate to enable the Judiciary to operate in the optimum businesslike manner;

(4) Parallel to the need for state-of-the-art facilities and technology in case management systems, it is important to assure that modern business practices are applied to budgeting, staffing and funding; and

(5) To that end, an analysis of the structure and allocation of budget resources and an examination of alternative funding sources to address the needs of the Judicial Branch beyond the maximum funds that the General Assembly is able to appropriate should be undertaken by a Court Resources Task Force to report to the Chief Justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, with the unanimous approval of the members of the Supreme Court, pursuant to Delaware Constitution, art. IV, § 13(1), that:

(A) A Court Resources Task Force is hereby created to assist the Judicial Branch of government in Delaware as hereinafter set forth.

(B) The objectives of the Task Force shall be to:

(i) Analyze the existing state budgetary structure and staffing of the Judicial Branch to determine if the structure and staffing are conducive to optimum management of the Judicial

Branch, and if resources should be reallocated and new staffing standards established to achieve maximum efficiency attainable;

(ii) Identify alternative, renewable or one-time external funding sources that are appropriate and ethical, to assist the Judicial Branch in fulfilling its mission by providing funds to address the needs of the Judicial Branch beyond the maximum funds that the General Assembly is able to appropriate;

(iii) Develop internal strategies to increase the revenue that courts generate for the General Fund; and

(iv) Help the courts develop partnerships with the private sector, colleges, universities and the Bar to address the courts' personnel and resource requirements.

(C) The Task Force is requested to examine the feasibility and ethical appropriateness of the following:

(i) Whether and to what extent the private sector is able to supply volunteers or loans of experts on a

recurring or one-time basis to fill discrete and appropriate personnel needs of the Judicial Branch;

(ii) Whether a Court Improvement Foundation should be created to seek and dispense private contributions from inside and outside Delaware;

(iii) Whether renewable or one-time grants are obtainable from outside sources such as: the United States Department of Justice, the State Justice Institute, existing foundations, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, Delaware funds or funding sources other than direct legislative appropriations from the General Fund and other sources of governmental or nongovernmental grants or assistance;

(iv) Whether new fee structures or surcharge systems for certain court services should be established by court rule;

(v) Whether collection efforts can be further improved by building on the recent successes of the

Judicial Branch and whether a new structure of fines and assessments can be implemented;

(vi) Whether and to what extent the Judiciary should undertake compatible technology systems and other collaborative efforts with the federal courts, without additional State funding; and

(vii) Whether internal programs for credit with colleges and universities that would provide the courts with additional personnel beyond the maximum that State appropriations can provide should be established.

(D) The overall goal of the Task Force will be to assure that modern business and management techniques prevalent in the private sector are being applied to the management and functioning of the Judicial Branch of government.

(E) The following persons shall constitute the Task Force and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice:

James H. Gilliam, Jr., Esquire - Chair
R. Franklin Balotti, Esquire - Vice Chair
Roger Arrington, Esquire, Vice President and Assistant General
Counsel of DuPont
Mr. Robert Burris of Burris Foods, Inc.
Mr. Jae Chung, Sr. Executive Vice President of MBNA

The Honorable Orlando J. George, Jr., President of Delaware
Technical and Community College
Dean Michael Ginsberg, Dean of the College of Business &
Economic Dev., Univ. of Delaware
Patricia C. Hannigan, Esquire, President-Elect of the Delaware State
Bar Association
Richard Herrmann, Esquire
Michael Houghton, Esquire
Dr. Patrick Liverpool, Dean of the School of Management, Delaware
State University
The Honorable Joshua W. Martin, III, CEO, Verizon Delaware
Kathleen Furey McDonough, Esquire
David K. Mitten, Mitten & Winters, CPAs
Dean Douglas Ray, Dean of Widener University School of Law
Tempe B. Steen, Esquire
Such other persons as the Chief Justice shall appoint
from time to time

(F) The Honorable Randy J. Holland, shall serve as Supreme Court Liaison Justice. Mr. Stephen D. Taylor, Supreme Court Administrator, and Ms. Gail McGlashan, Chief Financial Officer of the Administrative Office of the Courts, shall provide staff support to the Task Force.

(G) The Task Force is requested to submit to the Chief Justice an Interim Progress Report by Friday, March 1, 2002. A second Progress Report is requested

to be submitted to the Chief Justice by Wednesday, May 1, 2002. A Final Report is requested to be submitted to the Chief Justice by Tuesday, December 31, 2002.

Chief Justice

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
The Honorable Joseph T. Walsh
The Honorable Randy J. Holland
The Honorable Carolyn Berger
The Honorable Myron T. Steele
Members of Judicial Conference

The Honorable M. Jane Brady
The Honorable Lawrence M. Sullivan
Court Administrators
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Counsel to the Governor
Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair of the House Judiciary Committee