

**Judicial Structure Task Force
(HR 30 2022 R.S.)**

Minutes of Meeting
July 20, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome Zeringue, chairman of the Judicial Structure Task Force, called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman
Senator James "Jimmy" Harris
Representative Jason M. Hughes
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.
Representative Thomas A. Pressly, IV
Representative Debbie Villio

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Mandie Landry

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Marilyn Castle
Judge Lee Faulkner
Judge Douglas J. Saloom
Judge Mitchell R. Theriot
Chief Justice John Weimer

INVITED STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Judge Tiffany Chase
Judge Guy Holdridge

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Singletary, division director
Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst
Kerry Lentini, judicial council
Diane Merritt, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

Representative Zeringue, chairman of the Judicial Structure Task Force, created by House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session, introduced the legislative members.

Chief Justice Weimer introduced the members from the Judiciary.

Representative Zeringue explained to the members that certain Louisiana Supreme Court staff members were present to provide information on previous studies and current available data. The staff e-mailed a copy of the House Concurrent Resolution No. 143 report dated February 14, 2014, which is also located on the Louisiana Supreme Court's website: lasc.org.

Sandra A. Vujnovich, judicial administrator, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., Suite 1190, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504)310-2550, testified for information only. She provided background information and a history of the process used by the court to evaluate requests for new judgeships over the years. Ms. Vujnovich provided a report to the Judicial Structure Task Force entitled "The Judicial Council's Role in Evaluating New Judgeship Requests", Exhibit A, which is included in the Judicial Structure Task Force records. She also provided the "Supreme Court of Louisiana 2021 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court", which can be found on the Louisiana Supreme Court's website: lasc.org/judicialadministratorsoffice. Ms. Vujnovich addressed questions from the task force members.

Julia Spear, deputy judicial administrator for research and development, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., Suite 1190, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504)310-2550, testified on how the judicial council reviews requests for new judgeships and some reasons why part of this process should be changed. Ms. Spear addressed questions from the task force members.

Dr. Hugh Collins, retired, judicial administrator, Louisiana Supreme Court, 300 Lake Marina Ave., Unit 3-A, New Orleans, LA 70124, testified for information only. Dr. Collins addressed questions from the task force members.

Frank DiFulco, director, Case Management Information System (CMIS), Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., Suite 1190, New Orleans, LA 70124, (504)310-2561, testified for information only and provided a power point entitled "Louisiana Supreme Court Data Collection: Appellate and District Courts", Exhibit B, which is included in the Judicial Structure Task Force records. Mr. DiFulco addressed questions from the task force members.

Rose Wilson, data analyst, research and development division, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., Suite 1190, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504)310-2550, testified for information only and addressed questions from the task force members.

Representative Zeringue stated that House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session set out goals for the task force to solicit input from certain groups, gather data on appellate and district courts, obtain an updated work point study, make recommendations for any necessary changes to the structure of the judiciary, and determine the most efficient use of judicial resources.

Representative Zeringue proposed a subcommittee to study the proposals received from the Judicial Management Institute and from the National Center for State Courts and report back to the Judicial Structure Task Force in a few weeks.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
Judicial Structure Task Force

Date adopted: _____