

Judicial Structure Task Force
(HR 30 2022 R.S.)
Minutes of Meeting
September 22, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome Zeringue, chairman of the Judicial Structure Task Force, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman
Representative Jason M. Hughes
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.
Representative Thomas A. Pressly, IV

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator James "Jimmy" Harris
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Debbie Villio

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:

Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst
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, asked the staff members of the judicial administrator's office of the Louisiana Supreme Court to provide an update on finalizing the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) contract, collecting data, and establishing the advisory committees.

Kerry K. Lentini, contractor, representing the Louisiana Supreme Court, 300 Southern Rd., River Ridge, LA 70123, (504) 400-4499, testified for information only and addressed questions from the task force members.

Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst, stated that the money for the contract was appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, so the legislature is working with the judicial administrator's office to finalize the contract.

Representative Zeringue asked Ms. Lentini, going back to 2014, if the historical data would be needed by NCSC to start the study. She stated that the NCSC could begin the process as soon as the contract is signed.

Debbie D. Hudnall, executive director, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Hwy., Bldg. A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 293-1162, testified for information only and provided information on behalf of the Louisiana clerks of court, Exhibit A, which is included in the Judicial Structure Task Force records. Ms. Hudnall addressed questions from the task force members.

Remy Voisin Starns, state public defender, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main St., Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 219-9305, testified for information only and provided a power point entitled "Impact of Judicial Restructuring on Public Defense", Exhibit B, which is included in the Judicial Structure Task Force records. Mr. Starns addressed questions from the task force members.

Loren Lampert, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 343-0171, testified for information only and stated that he had not prepared a report. He addressed questions from the task force members.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Zeringue announced that the next Judicial Structure Task Force meeting would be on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The members agreed on the next meeting dates for Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., and Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
Judicial Structure Task Force

Date adopted: _____