

DISTRICT COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Judicial Structure Task Force
(HR 30 2022 R.S.)
Minutes of Meeting
July 13, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barry Ivey, chairman of the District Court Advisory Committee, Judicial Structure Task Force, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ruben Bailey
Judge Ray Blanchet
Judge DeMahy
Pat Douglas
Annette Fontana
Judge Casey-Jones
Judge Will Jorden
Judge Patricia Koch
Judge Tim Marcel
Allie Nowlin
Judge Chris Peters
Judge Kern Reese
Sandra Vujnovich
Rose Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Judge Ray Childress
Senator Royce Duplessis
Hope LaFleur
Judge Wendell Manning

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst
Diane Merritt, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

Representative Ivy had the members of the Judicial Structure Task Force District Court Advisory Committee introduce themselves.

John Douglas, Suzanne Tallarico, Shannon Roth, and Hengel Reina, National Center for State Courts (NCSC), 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23185, provided an overview of a judicial workload assessment project for Louisiana district courts.

Suzanne Tallarico discussed the methodology and approach for the district courts weighted caseload study, Exhibit A, "Louisiana District Court Workload Assessment 2023", which is included in the committee records.

Sandra Vujnovich, Judicial Administrator's Office, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, clarified that case weights is not one judicial district but is the aggregate of all of the district judges.

Shannon Roth explained how to input the data and provided Exhibit B, "Judicial Weighted Caseload Study Pre-Meeting Preparation Document", dated July 13, 2023, which is included in the committee records.

John Douglas stated that there are ten decisions to make and the collection of data should start in the fall.

After discussion, Judge Jorden offered a motion to adopt the time study to begin on October 9 through November 3, 2023. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge Koch offered a motion to adopt a list of participants for the time study. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge Marcel offered a motion to adopt proposed civil case types. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge Koch offered a motion to adopt proposed criminal case types. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge

Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge DeMahy offered a motion to adopt proposed juvenile court case types. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge DeMahy offered a motion to adopt proposed specialty court case types. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge DeMahy offered a motion to adopt proposed case related court activities titles. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge DeMahy offered a motion to adopt proposed noncase related activities. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge Jorden offered a motion to adopt proposed weighted caseload study-judge year value. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

After discussion, Judge DeMahy offered a motion to adopt travel time multitasking. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Ivy, Ruben Bailey, Judge Blanchet, Judge DeMahy, Pat Douglas, Annette Fontana, Judge Casey-Jones, Judge Jorden, Judge Koch, Judge Marcel, Allie Nowlin, Judge Peters, Judge Reese, Sandra Vujnovich, and Rose Wilson voted yea.

Representative Ivy stated that the next meeting of the Judicial Structure Task Force District Court Advisory Committee will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in House Committee Room 1.

Sandra Vujnovich explained that today the committee went through the discussion packet time log study and that once drafted, the committee should circulate the time log study well in advance of October 9, 2023.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barry Ivey
Judicial Structure Task Force