

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING A JUDICIAL CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

WHEREAS, the Maryland public and the other branches of State government are looking to courts to address the complex social issue of crime by focusing on problem solving and remedies not most effectively accommodated by traditional legal and adjudicatory processes; and

WHEREAS, there are principles and methods grounded in therapeutic jurisprudence, including integration of treatment services with judicial case processing, on-going judicial intervention, close monitoring of and immediate response to behavior, multi-disciplinary involvement, and collaboration with community-based and government organizations; and

WHEREAS, problem-solving courts are specialized dockets designed to divert individuals who commit crimes into an integrated system which provides intensive treatment and case supervision under the close management of a court in which offenders are held strictly and immediately accountable for their behavior through a variety of incentives and sanctions; and

WHEREAS, problem-solving courts are a proven innovation a result of which is reduced recidivism, and thus an improvement in the human condition; and

WHEREAS, all present and future problem-solving courts should be governed by a single entity within the Maryland Judicial Conference; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, on this 21st day of December, 2006, establish the Judicial Conference Standing Committee on Problem-Solving Courts which shall be staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Committee shall incorporate into its infrastructure the extant Drug Treatment Court Commission and shall be responsible for judiciary-wide superintendence of all problem-solving court programs to ensure a comprehensive systems approach to the development and implementation of problem-solving courts in Maryland. As part of, but not limited to, this responsibility, the Committee shall:

- Serve as the Judiciary's review authority for all requests to establish problem-solving courts and make recommendations on such requests to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Serve as the Judiciary's clearinghouse for all grant funding requests related to problem-solving courts
- Establish a program of continuing performance evaluation for all problem-solving court programs

- Recommend best practices and standards regarding the operation and management of problem-solving court programs

/s/ Robert M. Bell
Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge

Filed: December 22, 2006

/s/ Alexander L. Cummins
Alexander L. Cummings, Clerk
Court of Appeals

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