

JUDICIAL COUNCIL WORKGROUP ON THE STATE OF THE COURT REPORTS

The Judicial Council's Workgroup on the State of the Court Reports is tasked with reviewing the annual reports submitted by the trial courts. The reports provide an overview of the work of the courts during Calendar Year 2015, as well as the courts' goals for Calendar Year 2016. Additionally, the reports contain information regarding legislative, operational, administrative, and other concerns that have the potential to adversely impact the courts' ability to function at optimal capacity.

In its review of the reports, the workgroup will determine if there are any discernible trends with respect to the concerns and issues contained therein. The workgroup will formulate recommendations based on the trends or other critical issues it deems appropriate. Each recommendation should include the budgetary impact, if any, as well as a timeline for implementation. Additionally, each recommendation should include the Judicial Council committee to which it should be assigned, if applicable.

In addition to formulating recommendations from its review of the State of the Court reports, the workgroup will make recommendations regarding the future of Maryland's trial courts over the next five years. The workgroup will focus its attention on how to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation and administration of the trial courts. The recommendations will include any proposed legislative and or rule changes necessary to move the courts in the proposed direction.

The timeline for the above is as follows:

DATE	TASK
January 20, 2016	Workgroup formed
February 19, 2016	First meeting of workgroup scheduled
March 25, 2016	Draft recommendations completed
April 20, 2016	Workgroup presents draft recommendations to the Judicial Council
May 18, 2016	Workgroup presents final recommendations to the Judicial Council, incorporating any changes discussed during the April 20, 2016 meeting
May 19, 2016	Recommendations submitted to the appropriate Judicial Council committee, if applicable
July 20, 2016	Judicial Council committees provide Judicial Council with a status on plans to address recommendations, including any adjustment to the implementation timeline, if any

Workgroup Membership:

Judge Alan Wilner, Chair
Judge John Debelius, III
Judge Brett Wilson
Judge Angela M. Eaves

Judge John P. Morrissey
Judge Robert B. Riddle
Judge Eugene Wolfe
Pamela Harris

Wayne Robey
Richard Outten
Mary Abrams
Faye Matthews, Staff