

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT**

**C9-00-1099**

**IN RE ESTABLISHING  
INTERCOURT COMMITTEE**

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, the judicial branch of state government includes three distinct courts: the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the District Court ; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing number and nature of the demands placed upon the judicial branch is straining available resources of all three courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the judicial branch in 1996 adopted a strategic plan to provide an organized approach to those challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to coordinate the efforts of all levels of court and establish judicial branch priorities to insure that the system goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan are achieved within the limits of available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for system-wide oversight and accountability for the implementation of the strategic plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1991 the Intercourt Committee was formed to share information between and among the separate courts within the judicial branch and to address common court system issues and concerns;

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Intercourt Committee be reorganized and formally established as an advisory body to the Chief Justice to serve as a forum to share information, address common court issues, obtain consensus regarding common concerns and assume oversight responsibility for the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan.
2. The Intercourt Committee not assume duties and responsibilities already delegated to the Conference of Chief Judges, Minnesota District Judges Association, the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.
3. The responsibilities of the Intercourt Committee be limited to the following:

a. Strategic Plan.

- (1) Establish Judicial Branch strategic plan priorities each year;
- (2) Appoint and oversee committees that implement strategic plan initiatives;
- (3) Screen and approve (or decline) new statewide projects that require undedicated Judicial Branch resources.

b. Legislative

- (1) Recommend new legislative proposals initiated from within the Judicial Branch which impact more than one court level;
- (2) Coordinate responses to proposed legislation impacting the Judicial Branch;
- (3) Coordinate Judicial Branch activities related to proposed legislation, the Legislature or the Executive Branch of government.

c. Human Resources

- (1) Recommend to the Supreme Court an annual/biennial compensation plan that affects all Judicial Branch employees;
- (2) Identify common Judicial Branch personnel problems and concerns and coordinate responses to them. Common Judicial Branch personnel problems and concerns are those that affect or impact more than one level of the court system;
- (3) Provide advice to the State Court Administrator regarding collective bargaining issues.

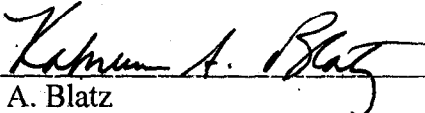
d. Budget

- (1) Advise the Chief Justice regarding the coordination of new legislative budget requests among the court levels. The Intercourt Committee may not exercise any direct authority or control over the base budgets of the Trial Court, Court of Appeals or Supreme Court;
- (2) Serve as a forum to identify common Judicial Branch budget concerns and problems;
- (3) Coordinate responses to common Judicial Branch budget concerns and problems. Common Judicial Branch budget concerns and problems are those that affect or impact more than one level of the court system;
- (4) Assess the budget implications of strategic plan initiatives and other system wide projects.

4. The Intercourt Committee, on a biennial basis will solicit comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding its function and performance from court system constituents and consider information received in determining whether to revise its structure, membership, duties or responsibilities.
5. The Intercourt Committee be representative of the court system and include the following members:
  - a. The Chief Justice and two designees
  - b. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or designee
  - c. The Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges or designee
  - d. The Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges Administration Committee
  - e. The Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges Judicial Resources Committee
  - f. The President of the Minnesota District Judges Association or designee
  - g. The State Court Administrator
  - h. An Administrator elected by the Court Executive Team
6. The Chief Justice shall serve as Chair of the Intercourt Committee.
7. Designated members shall serve two-year renewable terms.

Dated: August 15, 2000

By the Court:

  
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Kathleen A. Blatz  
Chief Justice

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS

AUG 17 2000

**FILED**