**Minutes of December 18, 2023, Legislative Committee Meeting**

**Approved by the Legislative Committee at the meeting held on October 31, 2024.**

The Legislative Committee of the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) held a meeting via WebEx on December 18, 2023. An agenda and materials were distributed and posted on the CCOC website before the meeting. Provided below is a summary of staff notes from the meeting. These staff notes are designed to document committee action, not to be a complete record of committee discussions. Motions adopted by the committee are in **bold** text.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Approve Agenda**

Clerk Carolyn Timmann, Chair of the Legislative Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. The meeting was turned over to Griffin Kolchakian, CCOC Budget and Communications Director, to conduct roll call. Mr. Kolchakian called the roll.

Present via WebEx: Honorable Carolyn Timmann, Chair, Honorable Tara S. Green, Vice-Chair, Honorable Barry Baker, Honorable Jerald D. Bryant, Honorable Doug Chorvat, Jr., Honorable Roger Eaton, Honorable Michelle R. Miller, Honorable Victoria L. Rogers, Honorable Cindy Stuart, Honorable Jason L. Welty

Absent from meeting: Honorable Rachel Sadoff

**The agenda was approved by Chair Timmann.**

**Agenda Item 2 – Approve Minutes from 10/3/23 Meeting**

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Clerk Welty and seconded by Clerk Miller; the motion was adopted without objection.**

**Agenda Item 3 – Welcome and Comments from CCOC Executive Council Chair**

Chair Timmann thanked Vice-Chair Green for stepping up in her role and stated that she will call on members of the committee to help with the legislative process.

Chair Timmann recognized Clerk Stacy M. Butterfield, Chair of the CCOC Executive Council. Chair Butterfield thanked committee members and staff for their time and the coordination between the CCOC and the FCCC.

**Agenda Item 4 – CCOC Legislative Agenda Update**

Mr. Kolchakian stated that, in October, the CCOC Legislative Committee established two funding requests for the upcoming Legislative Session which convenes on January 9, 2024. These funding initiatives include a Legislative Budget Request (LBR) of $2.7 million for the reimbursement of Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexually Violent Predators petitions and a continuation of the $11.7 million jury reimbursement funding. Mr. Kolchakian stated that clerks are requesting to increase the jury reimbursement funding to $16.5 million, a $4.8 million increase. Clerks’ total jury costs will exceed the $11.7 million appropriation in the current fiscal year. Clerk Green asked Mr. Kolchakian if this $4.8 million request was based on current trial data. Mr. Kolchakian confirmed and stated that the $16.5 million total is based on projections and should be sufficient to cover jury expenses next year.

**Agenda Item 5 – New Judges Certification Request**

Mr. Kolchakian thanked the FCCC team for fixing the WebEx link issue prior to today’s meeting.

Mr. Kolchakian stated that the Supreme Court published its Certification of Need for Additional Judges on November 30, 2023. Five new county judges were certified (three in Orange County and two in Hillsborough County) and one circuit judge was certified in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Kolchakian stated that legislation signed into law in 2022 now requires the CCOC to do two things, develop a formula to estimate the cost of clerk support for circuit and county judges and to make a recommendation to the Legislature on any need for additional funding using the formula if the number of judges is increased.

Mr. Kolchakian stated that, for each new judge certified by the Supreme Court, this formula provides one courtroom clerk and calculates the additional FTE needed to process the increased workload using the average case filings per judge over a three-year period and applies the available annual hours worked by an employee.

Mr. Kolchakian stated that the funding amount methodology for each calculated FTE identifies a statewide salary and benefits average using the most recent Operational Budget data excluding the elected clerks. This request uses CFY 2022-23 data which calculates $70,141 for each newly calculated FTE. The State’s Competitive Area Differential (CAD) salary additive will also be added for applicable counties. However, the CAD does not apply to these three counties. Mr. Kolchakian stated that the clerks’ calculated request totals just under 28 new FTE and just under $2 million. As a reminder, this requests additional state funding and does not affect the CCOC Revenue-Limited Budget.

Chair Timmann stated that we have been working on this process for several years and, without these additional resources, clerks simply cannot do their jobs.

**Agenda Item 6 – Other Business**

Clerk Stuart asked what clerks are doing to meet the deadline for UCR. Clerk Chorvat stated that there will be a survey going out this week to finalize the information on that. Clerk Chorvat stated that he will continue to work with OSCA to get this done. Clerk Green echoed the importance of capturing the number of resources that are going towards this project.

Chair Timmann requested that any staff that have experience in the legislative process assist in the bill analyses that are requested before and during Session. If anyone is willing to help out, please let Mr. Kolchakian know.

Clerk Burke asked if the clerks’ legislative request includes the issue regarding the 50% of the Cumulative Excess being sent to General Revenue. Chair Timmann confirmed that this issue is part of the legislative package this year. Clerk Burke stated that not meeting the UCR deadline is not a negative to clerks, but it is a success considering no additional dollars were dedicated to this project.

Clerk Baker stated that he hopes everyone has a great holiday and that he is looking forward to the upcoming Legislative Session. FCCC Executive Director Chris Hart thanked the clerks for everything they do.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.