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# Executive Committee Meeting

October 27, 2026

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**October 27, 2026**

**Meeting:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Eastern

**Location:** [Virtual through Zoom](#)

- 1) Call to Order and Introduction .....Hon. Tara S. Green
- 2) Roll Call .....Hon. Michelle Miller
- 3) Public Comment .....Hon. Tara S. Green
- 4) Executive Director's Salary .....Jason L. Welty
- 5) Florida State University Partnership .....Jason L. Welty
- 6) Other Business .....Hon. Tara S. Green



## **AGENDA ITEM 4**

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**SUBJECT:** Executive Director Salary Adjustments  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discussion and Direction

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### **OVERVIEW:**

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) has no established process for adjusting the Executive Director's salary. On June 22, 2026, the Council and Corporation adopted the Corporation's budget, which included a four percent salary increase for all employees, including the Executive Director. The increase took effect for employees on October 1; however, the Executive Director has not received it, giving this Committee an opportunity to deliberate the issue.

The Plan of Operation does not currently address the issue beyond the Council and Corporation approving the budget. Without a defined process, any adjustment reaches the Council through the Executive Director's proposed budget. In practice, the Executive Director proposes their own figure.

### **QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:**

Given the nature of the role, should salary adjustments for the Executive Director follow a separate process before they are included in the proposed budget?

**LEAD STAFF:** Jason L. Welty, Executive Director



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## AGENDA ITEM 5

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**SUBJECT:** Florida State University (FSU) Partnership

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Approve CCOC Engaging in a Partnership with FSU

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### OVERVIEW:

CCOC requests the Executive Committee approve a research partnership with Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The first study would look at what clerk offices do to help people get on payment plans and stay on them. At this point, this work involves no additional cost or anticipated workload under this agreement. With approval, staff will finalize the Phase 1 scope and agreements so fieldwork can begin in early 2027. The Council will receive an informational update in December.

### WHY THIS MATTERS:

Clerks walk a fine line. A large share of the budget depends on collecting fines, service charges, and court costs. The people who owe them often have the least ability to pay. When a payment plan is set too high, people make one or two payments and stop. Their driver's license is suspended, they pick up new charges, and the debt becomes harder to collect.

In an attempt to thread this needle, clerks have already acted. As part of our 2021 and 2022 legislative packages, clerks capped the percentage of down payments, lowered the monthly minimum to \$25, allowed for payment plans on all case types, and CCOC created the Uniform Payment Plan form. Even so, about 50 percent of payment plans fail. We see the same pattern after Operation Green Light events: people make a down payment and one or two monthly payments, then fall back into suspension within a few months.

The Legislature expects clerks to collect what it has already directed to them before it considers other funding. We need evidence on which practices work. Right now, CCOC does not know how most offices run collections day to day. Additionally, given the population disparities and variations in available court technology funding between counties, CCOC needs solutions that fit a variety of needs and circumstances.

### WHERE THINGS STAND:

- **September 4, 2026.** Staff briefed the PIE Committee on a proposal to expand the Payment Plans Workgroup into a standing Clerk Compliance Workgroup. Matt Guse is lead staff. This proposal will complement the workgroup's expanded scope.
- **September 2026.** FSU matched CCOC with Dr. David McElhattan, who researches court fines and fees, and Dr. Jennifer Copp, Director of FSU's Jail Research and Policy Institute.
- **October 6, 2026.** CCOC met with both researchers and agreed on the approach below. FSU is ready to proceed once the Committee approves.

## PROPOSED APPROACH

The partnership would serve as the research arm of the proposed Clerk Compliance Workgroup. That workgroup grows out of the PIE Committee's Payment Plans Workgroup. It would cover payment plans, Operation Green Light, collection agents, and compliance education.

- **Phase 1: Data analysis.** FSU uses CCOC's existing reporting, which covers eight to 10 years of reliable collection agent and Collections Performance data, two years of Payment Plan data, and five years of Operation Green Light data.
- **Phase 2: Fieldwork.** FSU researchers visit a mix of small, medium, and large counties, selected using CCOC peer groups. They talk with frontline staff who run collections, not just leadership. The goal is to find what high performers do that their peers don't know about. Selected counties may be asked for case-level data.

Outside researchers add credibility to the potential recommendations. Former Executive Council member and Budget Committee Chair Clerk Tiffany Moore Russell suggested that CCOC use outside resources to augment its relatively small staff. This proposal follows that direction and could significantly boost clerks' effectiveness as they plan compliance initiatives. When clerks see their results next to their peers at PIE Committee meetings, many call CCOC asking what to change. Independent findings make that comparison easier and help coordinate new efficiencies across clerks' offices. Finally, the findings could also inform Payment Plans as a Service, Debt Negotiation as a Service, and the CCOC Contracted Compliance Service, CCOC concepts designed to improve compliance rates statewide.

**LEAD STAFF:** Jason L. Welty, Executive Director