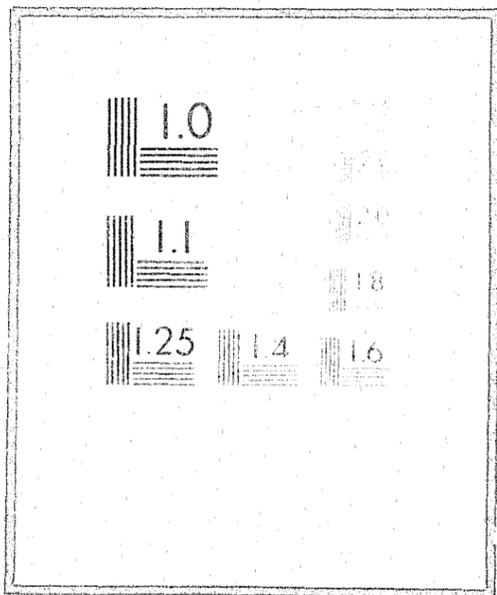


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REPORT OF SENATOR  
ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION  
FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT,  
DECEMBER 6-7, 1972



**THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**  
Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project  
Institute for Studies in Justice and Social Behavior  
The American University Law School  
Washington, D.C.

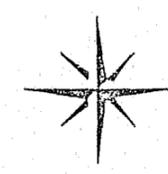
REPORT OF SEMINAR  
ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION  
FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT,  
DECEMBER 6-7, 1972

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ACQUISITIONS



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

A REPORT TO THE  
INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN JUSTICE AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

December 10, 1972

by

Ernest C. Friesen

In response to the request contained in a letter dated November 28, 1972 from Joseph A. Trotter, Jr., Project Coordinator of the Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project, I undertook a consulting engagement with the Supreme Court of the State of Florida.

Through an earlier arrangement in anticipation of this consulting engagement, Judge Ben Overton of Florida and Mr. James Ueberhorst, the Court Administrator of Florida, forwarded materials for my study. They included the following:

1. Organization charts comparing the organization of the courts prior to the Constitutional Amendments of 1971 with the new organization.
2. A copy of the original and revised Judicial Articles of the Florida Constitution.
3. The implementing legislation for the Constitutional Amendment of the Judicial Articles.
4. Rules of court dealing with the organization of trial courts.

In several lengthy conversations with Judge Overton and James Ueberhorst I obtained additional information about the Florida reorganization and the progress which was being made to meet the January 1, 1973 deadline on which the reorganization is to be in effect.

On December 2, 1972, Institute for Court Management interns who had worked in Florida arrived in Colorado. I discussed their information system project with them at some length, and studied their reports. The information system was designed in response to the demands of the reorganization.

On December 2 and 3, 1972, I prepared an outline of the materials to be covered in the conference to be conducted with the 21 new Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts, the Court of Appeals Chief Judges, and members of the Supreme Court. The general outline is attached as Exhibit A.

On December 5, 1972, I left Aspen, Colorado, where the closing Seminar of the Institute for Court Management was in progress, to drive to Grand Junction, Colorado to catch an airplane to Denver. In Denver, on the morning of December 6, I gathered reading materials to distribute to the judges and consulted with the staff members about special Florida problems. At noon on December 5, I left for Tallahassee, Florida for the conference.

I conferred with Mr. Ueberhorst on my arrival in Tallahassee, and with Judge Overton early the morning of the 6th. The conference began at 8:30 in the morning and continued, with all judges present, until early evening.

I returned to Aspen, Colorado, arriving at 2:00 p.m. December 8, 1972.

The conferences with the judges and with the court administrators were, from my viewpoint, most productive. The judges were particularly interested in learning more about personnel systems for courts, budgeting procedures in a centralized court system, information flow in a case management system, calendaring and scheduling schemes and perhaps, most significantly, how they would work together to administer the courts.

The interchange with the judges indicated that they were genuinely concerned about their responsibilities in managing all of the courts of the circuit. They are concerned about the best method for selecting a chief judge, the most rational basis for assigning cases and judges in areas of specialization, and are eager to try methods which have not been tried before.

One judge commented that the proposal "to require the client to sign a motion for continuance" was worth the whole conference. Another judge said that he had been opposed to having a court administrator in his seven judge circuit, but now believes that he needs one.

The Justices of the Florida Supreme Court participated in the conferences including the Chief Justice Elect, who will take office January 1, 1973.

Critique

This type of consultation should probably be developed. The group interaction served to stimulate questions and comments which would not occur in a normal one-to-one discussion. Each of the Chief Judges had an opportunity to hear the problems of the several circuits and districts analyzed, and solutions proposed which they might not have thought about otherwise.

A more effective conference would have resulted if I had had an opportunity to spend time in several circuits before the conference was called.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUDGES

December 6-7, 1972  
Tallahassee, Florida

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Management Concepts for Courts

Conflicts in Objectives  
Complexity of the System  
Uncontrollable Variables  
Professionalism and its Consequences  
Hierarchical Models  
Participatory or Consultative Models  
Monitoring  
Linkage  
Responsibility of Judges

Tools of Court Management

Personnel Systems for Courts  
Information and Statistics  
Budgetary Processes and Controls  
Case Scheduling and Management  
Evaluation

Standards for Court Administrator

Organization of the Trial Court  
Responsibility of the Judges  
Selection of the Chief Judge  
Role of the Court Executive  
Qualifications of the Court Executive  
Selection of the Court Executive

**END**

*7-11-1911*