



Public Trust and Confidence Committee Agenda / Afternoon Breakout Session

Friday, January 29, 2016
UNC School of Government, Room 2403

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| 1:30 – 1:40 a.m. | Welcome / Opening Remarks
<i>Brad Wilson, Chair</i> |
| 1:40 – 10:45 a.m. | Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2015 Meeting |
| 1:45 – 2:00 p.m. | Discussion of NCCALJ Commission Presentation |
| 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Strategic Planning Session
<i>Committee Discussion re Future Topics, Goals and Expected Outcomes</i> |
| 3:30 p.m. | Adjourn |



North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice Committee on Public Trust and Confidence

Meeting Minutes / January 29, 2016

MEETING DATE	January 29, 2016
TIME	1:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION	UNC School of Government

Attendees

Chair: J. Bradley Wilson

Members: Sheriff Earl Butler, , Frank Emory Jr., John Hood, Senator Floyd B. McKissick Jr., Dean Michael R. Smith (Ex-Officio), and Dr. Peter M. Koelling (Ex-Officio).

NCCALJ Staff: Emily Portner

Reporters: Andrew Atkins and Mildred Spearman.

Approval of Minutes

Because there was not a quorum, the committee members did not consider approval of the minutes from the December 16, 2015 meeting.

Overview of Breakout Session

Chair Brad Wilson indicated that the committee needs to drill down on its strategic goals and objectives. Toward that end, he requested that each member draft a proposed statement of the committee's charge or thesis and email it to us by February 10, 2016, if possible. The charge or thesis will be used to shape the committee's focus, objectives and final recommendations as the committee moves forward.

Members suggested that guiding principles should include improving public trust and confidence from two vantage points: (1) to objectively measure and gauge improvement using judicial performance measures based on empirical data; and (2) to take steps to improve public perception through education and information to the public. Is there actually a correlation between improved performance and increased public trust and confidence? Does the perception actually reflect the reality? For example, a survey of one local community demonstrated that most people believed most crime happened in the downtown corridor. In reality, however, only two percent of crimes happened in the downtown corridor, which indicates that reality does not always shape perception.

The committee needs to identify performance measures that matter. For example, a Durham County survey showed that biggest concern among courthouse users was parking. However, parking has little to do with actual court performance. If we are going to use the measure of public perception as a tool, we need to make sure there is some correlation to actual improvement in court performance.

Building public trust and confidence should be a goal of the system. Outcomes affect people who are not involved in the cases per se. We want people to believe that the courts present the best option for resolving a dispute, and that the fair administration of justice is vital to the orderly operation of our society.

Post-Commission Strategies

Members raised questions about the strategy for sharing the Commission's work after the final recommendations have been made. What will be expected of the members?

If any of the committee's recommendations are to be successful, someone must push the information to social media. There must be a constant communication strategy, because many perceptions are not based on actual participation with the court system.

Effective outreach will be critical. It might be wise to hold one or two-day sessions about the courts, similar to what is done at the Hunt Institute for other issues. We also may want to look at civics education.

Administrative Matters

The committees should continue their work with the goal of identifying preliminary recommendations for the green paper by July. Public hearings are expected to be held in August to discuss the preliminary recommendations and findings, and also to get feedback from the public. The members will be expected to attend as schedules permit.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: North Carolina Judicial Center, 901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607