

# TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

January 29, 2016

Paul Embley, Committee Reporter

LAW AND JUSTICE

# TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE VISION STATEMENT

*“To utilize technology to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and timeliness of processes critical to implementing the mission statement of the Judicial Branch.”*

# COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES TO DATE

## Presenters:

- Dean J. Rich Leonard – Campbell Law School, former Federal Bankruptcy Judge
- Richard Shauffler & Paul Embley – NCSC
- Jeff Marecic – NCAOC Chief Information Officer
- Marcos de Souza – Director of Information Technology, NC Appellate Courts
- Susan Frye – Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court
- Judge Mac Cameron – District Court Judge, State Judicial Council member
- Ted Enarson – Operations Manager
- Brad Fowler – NCAOC Planning and Organizational Development Officer

# COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES TO DATE

## Preliminary Recommendations:

1. That the NCCALJ Technology Committee serve as the advisory committee, as directed in Session Law 2015-241, to ensure the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the eCourts information technology initiative of the Judicial Branch.
  - a. That a third party vendor consultant be retained in order to fulfill the requirement by legislation for the development of an eCourts strategic plan pursuant to the charge in Session Law 2015-241, Section 18A.21(a).
2. That the Judicial Branch follow industry best practices by establishing a governance model whereby the various stakeholder groups work together in a structured process to prioritize court system IT projects and needs.

# TOPICS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. Explore possible implementation of a comprehensive electronic clerk's office system with an integrated case management component that allows stakeholders to better manage court business.
2. Examine opportunities to enhance the ability of the Judicial Branch to provide data that is consistent, interpretable, relevant, and secure.
3. Encourage the adoption of a formal information technology governance process to strategically prioritize IT projects in a way that best addresses the business needs of the court system.
  - a. The Technology Committee of the State Judicial Council drafted a governance charter and process that complements the needs of the North Carolina courts and builds upon best practices in IT management.

# TOPICS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

4. Serve as an advisory committee to the NC Administrative Office of the Courts to ensure the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the eCourts initiative.
  - a. The strategic plan shall:
    - i. Clearly articulate the requirements for the eCourts system, including well-defined milestones, cost parameters, and performance measures;
    - ii. Prioritize the funding needs for implementation;
    - iii. Identify potential issues that may arise in the development of the system, and plans for mitigating those roadblocks; and
    - iv. Address the potential for incorporating any currently existing resources into the eCourts platform.

CONSIDERING HOW NORTH CAROLINA COURTS  
CAN BEST MEET INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS  
AND 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS