

Code 218

Chief Justice Daniels, New Mexico Supreme Court
Artie Pepin, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

Judicial Reengineering Commission Administrative Office of the Courts

- The reengineering commission was formed to find a way for the courts to work more effectively in the face of budget cuts. To this end, the commission created ‘working groups’ to discuss various efficiency-creating proposals based on responses to an online survey.
- The working groups will present its proposals for statutory or rule changes to the full commission on July 21, 2011.
- Statutory Changes
 - Consolidating municipal courts into magistrate courts on a voluntary basis.
 - Consolidating probate courts into the state court system and revise the probate jurisdiction to be more efficient.
 - Making traffic citations administrative or civil matters. If traffic citations are non-criminal, look at efficient collections practices such as a central collections center; consider all traffic violations as ‘nuisance’ violations.
 - Revising the appeals process in domestic violence and DWI cases to be uniform statewide to increase efficiencies; this change may require DV and DWI cases to be tried in a court of record and appealed directly to the court of appeals.
 - Creating ‘cluster courts’ particularly for children and family cases.
- Judicial Rule or Administrative Changes
 - Form a group to identify and implement best practices/differentiated case management.

- Use or expand the use of technology (Internet or video conferencing) to allow judges in one district to hear cases or certain parts of cases in other districts.
- Enhance the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), including mandatory ADR in certain case types before a trial.
- Sustain and expand the use of problem solving courts (e.g. drug courts, mental health courts).
- Provide uniform, accessible, and interactive forms on the Internet to pro-se litigants; “real person” response to questions to pro-se litigant questions (possibly originating from centralized call center); require New Mexico attorneys to provide pro-bono services.

