

**THE THIRD BRANCH**  
**SUB-COMMITTEE of NH CITIZENS COMMISSION ON STATE COURTS**

Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 14, 2005

Present:	Donna Davey, Martin Gross, Andrew Peterson (Chair,) Katrina Swett, Dick Winters	
Absent:	Kelly Ayotte, Charles Bickford, Robert Duhaime, Francis Frasier, Peter Heed, Ann Kuster, Michael Whalley	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Committee Appointments:	<p>Andrew Peterson was appointed Chairperson of this sub-committee by the NH Citizens Commission on State Courts prior to this first meeting.</p> <p>Donna Davey agreed to act as Clerk for the duration of the Committee.</p>	<p>Andrew Peterson will act as Chairperson</p> <p>Donna Davey will act as Clerk</p>
Beginning Steps:	<p>The Committee discussed ways to assess how the NH Judiciary can work more effectively with the legislative and executive branches to fulfill its constitutional obligation as the third branch of government.</p> <p>It was agreed by all present that the first step would be to assess the current status of interaction between the branches in terms of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. workload,</li> <li>2. budgeting process,</li> <li>3. existing policies and procedures,</li> <li>4. what fundamental rights belong to each branch,</li> <li>5. are they remaining within the scope of their powers or over-reaching</li> <li>6. transparency</li> </ol>	

<p>Beginning Steps (Continued)</p>	<p>7. what are the impressions of each branch regarding how what is working and what is not working.</p> <p>It was determined that the best beginning would result from Committee members meeting with the Chief Justice, the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President relating to the above questions.</p>	<p>Andrew Peterson will set up meetings and relate the date(s) and time(s) to Committee Members offline.</p> <p>Committee Members will respond to the Chairs notification of meeting(s) in an RSVP manner.</p>
<p>Planning Next Steps:</p>	<p>Next steps were discussed.</p> <p>It was considered that we may want to have a conference call or email exchange to outline recommendations prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Overall, we want to develop a finite number of bullet points and succinct expansion on those points.</p>	<p>Andrew Peterson will set up a conference call or email exchange to discuss a proposed draft of member recommendations.</p> <p>January and February will be working meetings for the Committee.</p> <p>“Right to Know” issues will be addressed to ensure we are transparent in regards to all matters related to the Committee.</p> <p>A discussion will be held regarding educational activities that the court may undertake to re-charge their sense of legitimacy in the eyes of the public.</p>
<p>Next Meeting:</p>	<p>The next meeting of THE THIRD BRANCH sub-committee of the NH Citizens on the State Courts Commission will be held in conjunction with and during the next NH Citizens on the State Courts Commission meeting on <b>January 17, 2005</b>.</p>	<p>Andrew Peterson will request assistance from Laura in providing any existing policies and procedures for The Third Branch Committee to review.</p>