

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Please return your responses to Citizens.Commission@courts.state.nh.us.

The New Hampshire Citizens Commission on the State Courts would like to ask you some questions about the state courts, including the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the District Court and the Probate Court. We ask that you limit your responses to experiences with the state courts and not with state or local police or other law enforcement agencies.

1. What experience do you have with the state courts?

I have had experience as a defendant, plaintiff, and witness. I have had experience appearing both represented by an attorney and appearing pro se in family court (district and superior) and in small claims court.

2. Where do you get information about the state courts?

I've gotten information from www.state.nh.us, at the courts, from attorneys, and from other interested parties.

3. How much do you know about how the state courts operate?

I probably know more than the average NH resident but do not have extensive knowledge.

4. Are you concerned about the expense of going to court?

Absolutely. The costs, both in real money, and intangibles such as lost, and wasted time, extreme stress, and disruption of normal life, are enormous.

5. What different challenges are the state courts facing today?

My experience suggests that key challenges are keeping the agendas moving (cases seem to take far too long to be scheduled and heard) and prioritization. In particular, I would suggest that judges have too broad a spectrum of cases and end up prioritizing severe