

Proposed Research Groups for Citizens Commission

1. Communication & Customer Service

Charge: How can State courts more effectively meet the information needs and service expectations of New Hampshire citizens who engage the court system?

Proposed Chair:

Proposed Vice Chair:

Proposed Clerk:

2. Public Access to New Hampshire Courts

Charge: What barriers exist to the public's access to State Courts and how do we clear them?

- a. Are all court buildings accessible to people with disabilities?
- b. Are legal costs a barrier to public access to Courts?
- c. Are legal procedures themselves a barrier to public access to courts (ie., for pro se litigants)?
- d. Is technology being used to improve public access to courts?

Proposed Chair:

Proposed Vice Chair:

Proposed Clerk:

3. The Courts as a Business

Charge: The State Courts spend \$60 million annually; what changes should be made to assure that we are getting the best bang for the buck?

Proposed Chair:

Proposed Vice Chair:

Proposed Clerk:

4. Family Courts: Are We On the Right Track?

Charge:

Proposed Chair:

Proposed Vice Chair:

Proposed Clerk:

5. Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Charge: What are the ADR options, how are they made available, and do they/could they work effectively in NH?

Proposed Chair:

Proposed Vice Chair:
Proposed Clerk:

6. Sentencing

Charge: Is sentencing in NH courts fair, are the right people in jail and is the public being well served by current sentencing practices?

Proposed Chair:
Proposed Vice Chair:
Proposed Clerk:

7. The Third Branch

Charge: How can the NH Judiciary work more effectively with the legislative and executive branches to better fulfill its constitutional obligation as the third branch of government?

Proposed Chair:
Proposed Vice Chair:
Proposed Clerk:

8. Therapeutic Justice

Charge: Are there programs and/or services the state courts could offer that would result in a reduction in the demand for state court legal services?

Proposed Chair:
Proposed Vice Chair:
Proposed Clerk:

9. The Big Picture

Charge: Are there new paradigms that could positively change the delivery of services by NH courts, the level of public trust and confidence in the court system and/or the success with which disputes are resolved in NH courts?

Tasked to: Steering Committee