

COMMISSION SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR ASSISTANT JUDGES

1. Are there court services or administrative activities currently performed at the county level that could be performed either regionally, centrally, or electronically to improve the efficiency or cost-effectiveness of court operations?

Categorized Responses

Adjudicative

Finance

Case Administration

Education:

General Court Services:

Jury Services

Managerial: 5

Other: 4

Technology

Summary of Responses

Adjudicative:

Case Administration:

General Court Services:

Managerial:

I advocate the county taking over more of the Superior Court responsibility
Must receive significant input from Assistant Judges before any decisions are made
Local taxpayers by way of user fees and income taxes pay the judges. Property taxes support courthouses.
Assistant judges could present the commission a better comprehensive plan
Core functions cannot be efficiently managed centrally

Technology:

Finance:

Education:

Jury Services:

Other:

Probably not
Superior courts are stand alone courts no compelling reason to merge
Now is the time for the counties to come to the aid of the state.
This survey is biased

2. Is there technology that could be introduced into the court system that would make judicial operations more cost-effective or improve access to the court system, while at the same time maintaining the quality of justice services?

Categorized Responses

Adjudicative

General Court Services

Case Administration

Managerial

Technology: 4

Jury Services

Finance

Other

Education:

Summary of Responses

Adjudicative

Case Administration

General Court Services

Managerial

Technology

Video phones for better telephone hearings

Inexpensive jailhouse remotes

Scanners for the Judicial Bureau

Use scanner and email instead of the postal service

Finance

Education:

Jury Services

- 3. What can be done to allow more flexibility in the use of judicial resources (people facilities, dollars), particularly as workloads and funding levels increase and decrease?**

Categorized Responses

Adjudicative: 1

Finance

Case Administration

Education: 1

General Court Services

Jury Services

Managerial: 6

Other

Technology

Summary of Responses

Adjudicative

Use of Assistant Judges for traffic court in more than one county

Case Administration

General Court Services

Managerial

Need a comprehensive analysis of who the people are now and how they're used

Hire temps

We should enable more interagency communication

Paper reduction

Establish a response team that could be assigned to overwhelmed courts.

Greater control over management and financing of Superior and Probate courts by the counties

Technology

Finance

Education:

Cross train court clerks (Family and District)

Jury Services

4. Are there ways in which the types of cases heard in our various courts (superior, district, family, environmental, probate, judicial bureau) could be reallocated in a way that would increase the effectiveness of judicial operations or improve court efficiency?

Categorized Responses

Adjudicative: 5

Finance

Case Administration

Education:

General Court Services

Jury Services

Managerial 3

Other: 1

Technology

Summary of Response

Adjudicative

When there's a criminal traffic case, dispose of the civil tickets in the criminal case
Filtering frivolous actions without denying due process?
More cases should be heard by judicial officers who are paid less than presiding judges
Paying Rent into court should be heard by assistant judges
Some family matter could be heard by assistant judges

Case Administration

General Court Services

Managerial

The present structure is effective and efficient. No groundswell to reorganize the system
Probate and Superior Court are doing fine the way they are -adequately funded and dispose cases in timely manner
[Use example] Addison County has one court house for all courts – efficient organization

Technology

Finance

Education:

Jury Services

Other

Family Court is already overburdened

5. Please suggest other ideas that would enhance the efficient and effective delivery of judicial services to Vermonters.

Categorized Reponses

Adjudicative: 1

Case Administration: 1

General Court Services: 1

Managerial

Technology: 1

Finance: 1

Education:

Jury Services

Other: 3

Summary of Responses

Adjudicative

Control the granting of continuances

Case Administration

Streamline paperwork

General Court Services

Develop better, more specific information for pro se litigants

Managerial

Technology

Live court broadcasts

Finance

Get the judiciary budget out of the executive branch

Education:

Jury Services

Other

It is a bad idea to make long-range plans during a crisis

Consolidation of courts will have a detrimental impact on access to justice

The Commission is a top-down initiative, not a bottom-up initiative (top-down is decomposition analysis/ bottom-up is synthesis)