

## COMMISSION SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR LEGAL AID

N=7

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: 1

Finance

Case Administration:

Education:

General Court Services:

Jury Services

Managerial: 3

Other:

Technology: 2

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### Summary of Responses

#### Adjudicative:

- The side judge system is antiquated and adds little to the administration of justice.

#### Case Administration:

#### General Court Services:

#### Managerial:

- Consistency in use of court forms should be centrally managed
- It would seem that any service or activity that does not legally have to occur at the county level should be reviewed to determine whether more central handling would improve efficiency.
- I believe that all of the county court services should be consolidated at the state level so that there is better oversight and control.

#### Technology:

- Increase use of the web to insure
- Electronic filing by attorneys.

#### Finance:

#### Education:

#### Jury Services:

#### Other:

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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:**

**Finance**

**Case Administration: 2**

**Education:**

**General Court Services: 3**

**Jury Services**

**Managerial**

**Other**

**Technology: 7**

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**Summary of Responses**

**Adjudicative**

**Case Administration:**

- Judicial operations could be made more cost-effective by perhaps implementing centralized "how-to" manuals for clerks across the state to refer to to ensure that cases are handled properly from the minute they are filed.
- Telephone status conferences.

**General Court Services**

- Place "kiosks" in the busiest courts to allow pro se litigants to fill out forms and more fully complete necessary paper work.
- Providing plain language information, written at a low literacy level of grade 7 or lower, would allow greater access and improved use of the forms.
- Providing kiosks with computers to access these forms at the court house or at public libraries

**Managerial**

**Technology:**

- Electronic filing could be a cost-effective mechanism (x5)
- Provide more access to court functions online
- I think video conferencing could be useful for some services such as interpreters or for shorter proceedings like arraignments

**Finance**

**Education:**

**Jury Services**

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**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:**

**General Court Services:**

**Jury Services**

**Managerial: 2**

**Other: 1**

**Technology:**

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**Summary of Responses**

**Adjudicative**

**Case Administration:**

- training clerks or other court staff to handle status conferences or other such matters not involving the merits of the case

**General Court Services**

**Managerial:**

- Closing courts is really problematic. Access to the courts should be maintained as much as possible.
- I am adamantly opposed to closing rural courts

**Technology:**

**Finance**

**Education**

**Jury Services**

**Other**

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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: 1**

**Education:**

**General Court Services**

**Jury Services**

**Managerial: 2**

**Other:**

**Technology**

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**Summary of Response**

**Adjudicative**

- Move all cases involving civil rights and constitutional issues out of the probate courts and into courts that are bound by the VT rules of civil procedure and evidence
- Combining probate with superior court would probably be helpful
- Moving all guardianship proceedings to family court would be helpful and increase consistency
- Probate courts could be closed and their functions spread out in family and superior court.
- Judicial bureau be done out of police stations or sheriff departments with acting judges thereby freeing up courtroom space

**Case Administration**

- Block scheduling like cases might also help.

**General Court Services**

**Managerial:**

- Some consolidation might actually improve the effectiveness of judicial operations if it was done effectively
- I think closing courts in the more rural areas would be detrimental to the elderly, disabled, and low-income populations

**Technology**

**Finance**

**Education:**

**Jury Services**

**Other**

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

**Categorized Responses**

**Adjudicative:**

**Finance:**

**Case Administration:**

**Education:**

**General Court Services:**

**Jury Services**

**Managerial: 2**

**Other:**

**Technology:**

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**Summary of Responses**

**Adjudicative**

**Case Administration**

**General Court Services:**

**Managerial**

- I think making sure the courts follow proper procedure and law could avoid a lot of additional paperwork and court time, and allow the judiciary to run more effectively.
- the single most important issue to resolve is the county/ state split of services

**Technology**

**Finance**

**Education:**

**Jury Services**

**Other**