

Government Court Partners - 2

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? Please explain.**

Yes. Consolidation of county courts with district courts should be considered.

Yes. I think that many pleadings could be filed electronically. Similarly, many of the notices generated by the courts could be sent electronically to most parties. I think that it is likely possible to join the Essex County Courts with those in either of the adjoining counties.

2. **Is there technology that could be introduced in 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 judicial services? Please explain.**

Expand use of video arraignments and other hearings. More hearings held telephonically.

I think that electronic filing of most pleadings should be permitted.

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?**

Consider use of four 10 hour work days.

Sharing of personnel among courts is one possibility. Promptly starting the court schedule at 8:00 am would use time not currently being employed in most courts. Much of the court's work time is lost each day, and this could be one means of cushioning that loss.

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? Please explain.**

Determine if there are current criminal statutes that could be handled through civil hearings with a waiver fine.

I don't think so.

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

Set specific timelines for resolution of cases and adhere to them.