

February 22, 2010

Dear Judges Yamin, Knierim and Marino,

I was impressed by the amount of work you have accomplished based upon the complexity and magnitude of the tasks at hand. I would like to offer a few comments and suggestions that hopefully will be of assistance.

Comments:

1. Please remember that the probate clerks were told that no one would lose their job or have their compensation reduced as a result of the court mergers.
2. It is important as we develop staffing levels to also have the committee consider the type of work that comprises the WWL of each when determining staffing levels.

Suggestions:

1. You adopt the 1:1,050 WWL as the present indicator. It seems to bear out statistically what exists, and although it is somewhat imperfect, it serves as a useful starting point.
2. The committee send out the proposed staffing levels to all courts. Allow a 10 day review period and if any court wishes to suggest a change, 2 or 3 days be set aside for a meeting with the court and this committee informally at Probate Administration (the court sending in the appropriate suggestions ahead of time.)
3. The meeting dates for those courts with suggestions should be in late March or early April. (I believe you will have less than 10 requests and most, if not all, should resolve after a meeting.)

4. The committee ought to encourage those clerks in a court with staffing reductions to consider transferring to a court with increased staffing needs. In addition, a Judge with increased staffing needs should be encouraged to consider the experienced clerks when hiring. To facilitate a smooth transition, an email list of courts looking for staff should be considered and sent to all clerks.

Very truly yours,

Sydney W. Elkin

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