



## **Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)**

### **LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE CHARTER**

#### **I. Committee Title**

Legislative Committee

#### **II. Authority**

Board for Judicial Administrative Rules (BJAR 3)

#### **III. Charge**

The Legislative Committee facilitates court level/entity discussion of legislation and decides on the plan of engagement by the BJA with legislators and the Governor's office regarding proposals under consideration, including for legislation introduced at the request of the BJA.

#### **IV. Policy Area**

Staff to the Legislative Committee shall gather bill referrals from staff or liaisons for court levels/entities regarding which bills are of significant interest or impact to the court level or entity, and shall refer other bills to the committee whenever:

- The topic is highly visual, controversial, or of great interest to the judiciary;
- The bill applies to multiple court levels or the entire branch; or
- There is or could be disagreement between court levels, associations or, entities, or judicial branch partners.

Legislation or legislative drafts may be referred to the Legislative Committee by other entities at any time. The Legislative Committee may choose not to act on the referred issue or bill after discussion.

#### **V. Expected Deliverables**

The BJA Legislative Committee shall:

- Review and adopt positions on legislation as described in Section IV;
- Recommend action by associations or individual persons based on positions taken;
- Direct and authorize the engagement strategy taken on behalf of the BJA with regard to proposals under debate;
- React quickly as issues arise during the legislative session;

- Ensure regular communication and that no other committee's authority is being inappropriately or inadvertently usurped;
- During legislative sessions, conduct telephone conferences for the purpose of reviewing legislation and taking positions as described in Section IV. These calls should be held as soon as practicable in an effort to accommodate the weekly legislative schedule;
- During the interim, meet monthly or as needed, to develop legislative issues and potential “BJA request” legislation. These meetings should be held in conjunction with the standing BJA meetings whenever possible in order to minimize travel-related expenses and time away from court;
- In an emergency necessitated as a result of legislative proposals, the Legislative Committee shall convene by email and vote on a course of action or response; and
- Legislative Committee members shall be well versed in all bills they act upon and shall be expected to communicate all relevant positions or information to the organizations they represent, as well as other parties, including legislators, as needed.

#### **VI. Membership**

The BJA Legislative Committee shall be composed of:

- The voting members of the BJA Executive Committee;
- DMCJA and SCJA Legislative Committee chairs; and
- Three BJA members: one from a court of limited jurisdiction, one from a superior court, and one from the Court of Appeals; as nominated and chosen by the BJA.

Each member will have one vote per seat on the committee. In the event of co-chairs at an association level, that position will have only one vote.

The chair of the Legislative Committee shall serve for a two-year, renewable term, and shall be chosen from among the Legislative Committee members.

#### **VII. Term Limits**

The term of standing committee members shall be two years. Each committee member may be reappointed by the BJA to additional two-year term(s), including whenever the member occupies a position contemplated for Legislative Committee membership under Section VI.

Term should be consistent with a member's term on BJA or commensurate with the term in the office that compels participation on the Legislative Committee.

#### **VIII. Other Branch Committees to Partner With on Related Issues**

- SCJA Legislative Committee;
- DMCJA Legislative Committee; and

- Other Judicial Branch Boards, Commissions, and Associations.

**IX. Reporting Requirements**

The BJA Legislative Committee shall report monthly, or upon request, to the BJA.

During session, staff to the Legislative Committee will provide an update to the full BJA after the chair of the committee has made opening remarks.

The Legislative Committee shall report in writing to the BJA as requested.

The chair of the Legislative Committee shall attend one BJA meeting per year, at a minimum, to report on the committee's work, if so requested.

**X. Recommended Review Date**

The committee will have a review date of every two years.

*Adopted: July 18, 2014*

*Amended: September 19, 2014*

*September 18, 2015*

*March 20, 2020*