

Judicial Administration Committee
Friday, January 9, 2026

Zoom Meeting Minutes

- I. The meeting commenced at 12:05 p.m.

Members present: Judge Sarber, Chair, Judge Brown, Judge Evans, Judge Gull, Judge Jones, Judge Martin, Magistrate Olsen, Referee Pulley, and Emily VanOsdol

Guest present: Catherine Haines

Staff present: Jim Diller, Michelle Goodman, Tom Jones, Jeff Wiese, and Diane Mains

- II. The motions to adopt the August 15th and October 17th meeting minutes as drafted passed.

- III. Grandparent Visitation (GV) Cases

The Grandparent Visitation (GV) case type was established on January 1, 2025, to allow tracking of this case type. Time spent on GV cases during the recent WCL study has been reviewed. The case weight calculated was 194 minutes/case. This calculation followed the formula established by the NCSC. The Committee adopted 194 minutes/GV case to include in the 2025 WCL report. Members commented that assigning a 194-minute weight to GV cases appears to be consistent with existing civil case weights.

- IV. Weighted Caseload Calculation and Alternative Judge Time

Historically, there hasn't been an approved method for calculating alternative judge time (i.e., special judge time, cases venued in and out, etc.). The practice has been to include alternative judge time in the WCL measure, which is derived from the number of cases filed multiplied by the case weight and then divided by the number of judicial officers. Staff recommend moving the calculation of alternative judge time from the WCL calculation to the temporary adjusted time calculation to more readily identify the needs of each court while showing collaboration efforts among the courts. The motion to approve the calculation of alternative judge time with the temporary adjusted time was approved.

- V. Updating the Managing Cases with *Pro Se* Litigants manual

This project is still in the early stages. The Civil Benchbook Committee has agreed to work with JAC to update the manual. If members have ideas for updating the manual, they should contact Chair Sarber or staff.

VI. Weighted Caseload Data Presentation

The Committee discussed options for presenting the WCL data to increase transparency. Topics discussed included designating local versus state-paid judicial officers, inserting additional information as an attachment to the report versus using footnotes within the report, publishing a three-year average of the WCL along with a one-year average, and the benefits of reporting data at the individual court or county level.

Staff were asked to gather ideas and options on the topics discussed to share with the Committee for inclusion in this year's WCL report.

VII. Other Business

- The Judge Resource Committee (JRC) is operational. Judge Sarber will serve as the liaison between JRC and JAC, and he will report relevant information to the committee as needed.
- Senator Carrasco is the newly appointed chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.