

Approved: June 22, 2012  
(Date)

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on February 6, 2012, in Room 548-S of the Capitol. All members were present, except Senators King, Bruce and Schodorf who were excused.

### Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Bob Allison-Gallimore, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Lauren Douglass, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Committee Assistant

### Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Judge Dan Creitz, 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Member of Judicial Needs Assessment Commission (JNAC)  
Judge Patrick McAnany, Kansas Court of Appeals

### Others in attendance:

See Attached list

The Chairman announced that the purpose of the meeting would be to receive a presentation on the report of the Judicial Branch Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and the Weighted Caseload Study (WCLS) report.

Judge Dan Creitz provided background information concerning Project Pegasus, which the Kansas Judicial Branch began in the summer of 2010. Comprehensive lists of recommendations for the future operation of the Courts provided guidance on how the Judicial Branch can become more efficient and more responsive to the public. Judge Creitz noted the BRC report and the WCLS report were available on-line. (Attachment 1).

Judge Creitz stated there was 100% participation by judges in the judicial needs assessment. The judicial needs assessment showed that in relation to the caseload, of the 31 judicial districts: Ten judicial districts need more judges; nine judicial districts have an appropriate number of judges; and 12 judicial districts have too many judges. Judge Creitz noted that the combined caseload of the four largest judicial districts is equal to one-half of the caseload for the entire state.

Judge Creitz stated there was 99% participation by the clerks in the staff needs assessment. The staff needs assessment showed that in relation to the workload, of the 105 counties: Thirty-six counties need additional staff; 29 counties have an appropriate level or number of staff; and 40 counties have more personnel than is necessary.

Judge Creitz stated, among other things, the needs assessments showed that: The Kansas Judicial Branch is not overstaffed; reallocation of personnel may be appropriate; and there is a need for a substantial number of additional court clerk positions statewide.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:35 a.m. on February 6, 2012, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

Judge Patrick McAnany presented information relating to the report of the Blue Ribbon Commission. He stated there were public hearings in 18 areas of the state. Some of the recommendations of the Commission are: All money derived from docket fees should be retained for use by the Judicial Branch; eliminate the one-resident-judge-per county restriction; authorize the Supreme Court to assign judges on the basis of need within a judicial district; and e-filing and centralized case and document management systems should be developed and implemented as soon as possible. (Attachment 1).

In response to a question by Senator Donovan, Judge McAnany stated in order to make the judicial system more efficient, the Commission was expanding the jurisdiction of magistrate judges in such a manner that it would require magistrate judges to be lawyers.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.