

COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUDGES OF THE STATE COURTS OF APPEAL

October 2011

Finance Committee Report to Membership

Absent a summer hiatus, the Finance Committee telephonically 6 times in 2011. A summary of the Committee's activities during that time follows:

1. General financial oversight – reviewed the Council's financial statements for 2010; finalized the budget for 2011 and presented it for approval at the Executive Committee's mid-year meeting; and developed and presented fiscal conservation recommendations to the Executive Committee, including guidelines to minimize costs for meetings.
2. Status of 2011 dues payments – continuous contact with each state was maintained in order to facilitate and maximize dues payments. Judge John Martin (North Carolina) once again led the way by contacting Chief Judges to encourage them to pay dues despite poor financial times. As a result, ___ states paid dues for 2011, which was ___ more/less than 2010.
3. Projected outcome of 2011 budget – The Council is projected to have total revenue of \$328,924.00 with projected expenses of \$349,603.15, leaving a projected deficit of \$20,679.15, which will be paid from the Council's reserves. These figures may change slightly at year end after the conference expenses and revenues are finally tabulated. The projected deficit is \$___ more than the deficit experienced in 2010. Without accounting for the projected \$20,000 deficit this year, the Council has reserves in the sum of \$_____.
4. Relationship with Thompson Reuters – We would be remiss in not recognizing the historical and long-term commitment to the Council's mission by Thompson Reuters. This company, through the good auspices of Tom Leighton, has stepped up in this difficult economic year and contributed \$30,000 in support of the Council. Please express your appreciation to Tom for his and Thompson Reuters' continued commitment to excellence in the administration of justice in state intermediate appellate courts.
5. Sustaining fund campaign – in order to continue to provide a stable financial foundation for the Council's operations, the Finance Committee has monitored the Council's Sustaining Fund. The goal for the fund is to achieve a balance equal to the Council's budgeted expenses for one year. In 2010, contributions of \$3,385 were made to the

fund. So far in 2011, the Council has received \$2,500. Thank you to all who have generously contributed to the sustaining fund.

6. Sale of Logo Items – Last year, the Finance Committee kicked off the sale of Council-logo items (hats, shirts, etc.) at cost for purposes of developing esprit de corps rather than as a means of fundraising. So far in 2011, sales have reached \$500 as compared to \$1,875 in 2010. We invite you to please purchased an item or two at the conference to show off to your colleagues at home.
7. 2012 proposed Budget – in developing a proposed budget for next year, the Finance Committee concluded that most member budgets would remain stagnant. For this reason, we can expect another difficult financial year for state courts to pay dues and send members to the annual conference. Your continued hard work in prioritizing the payment of Council dues in your court’s budget is deeply appreciated because it is essential in order to keep the Council on track in accomplishing its mission. If you find yourself in the position of defending this item in your budget and in need of ammunition, please contact the Finance Committee or any Council officer for support. Please remember that a court can pre-pay dues for any number of years at a discount. Bear this in mind if you have unallocated funds to spend at the end of your budget year.
8. Acknowledgements – Thanks are extended to the National Center for State Courts for again not raising its secretariat fee for 2011. Thanks especially to Brenda Williams for her crucial assistance and advice given to the Finance Committee and, particularly, its chair. Juan Ramirez (Florida) and his wife, Josie, should be congratulated and thanked for all the hard work they put into putting the wheels in motion to garner needed financial support for this year’s conference.

This summary was designed to give each member a brief overview of the work of the Finance Committee this year. If you have any questions or desire additional detail, or have concerns about anything else regarding the committee’s work, please do not hesitate to talk with or contact any member of the committee.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve the Council on this committee this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann A. Scott Timmer, Chair

Gary Lynch

John Martin

John Few

Gene Thibodeaux

Kate Ford Elliot, ex officio