

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Part 1: Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee Report & Committee Primer

(1) Committee Description:

The Communications Committee serves as an oversight committee for all communications with the membership.

(2) Committee Responsibilities:

(a) Governance Manual:

Page 43.

Governance Manual

1. DESCRIPTION:

The Communications Committee serves as an oversight committee for all communications with the membership.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES:

1.1 The Communications Committee oversees all communications-related activities of the Council.

1.2 The Communications Committee shall schedule at least two videoconference Chief Chats annually, and shall develop topics of interest for the Chief Chats.

The Communications Committee serves as an oversight committee for all communications with the membership.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES:

2.1 The Communications Committee oversees all communications-related activities of the Council.

2.2 The Communications Committee shall schedule at least two videoconference Chief Chats annually and shall develop topics of interest for the Chief Chats.

(b) Strategic Plan

SPEC

GOAL: Create opportunities for members to network and discuss work-related topics throughout the year. Consistent with III(1)(C) herein, the outgoing chair should create/modify a/the “Primer document” that can be used by the current chair and vice-chair to assist in developing committee activity.

1. OBJECTIVE: Schedule at least two Chief Chats annually.
 - a. Action Step: Develop topics of interest for the Chief Chats
 - b. Action Step: Host Chief Chats when most convenient for the discussion leaders for the Chief Chats, but attempt to find dates in the spring and fall that work for the discussion leaders of the respective Chief Chats’
2. OBJECTIVE: Encourage and foster Forum Discussions based on inquiries from membership.
 - a. Action Step: Take the lead on issues raised in Chief Chats or other discussions to get a wider member view, by working with the Committee to further develop the discussion results or ongoing topic discussion

(3) Significant Recurring Events/Impact on Committee:

Prepare and present at least three Chief Chats for membership. Members of the committee select topics and moderate the sessions (or find a qualified moderator from outside committee membership). Coordinate with Education Committee for ideas on timely, relevant, and educational topic.

(4) Scheduled Meetings (frequency and scheduling):

Quarterly and we have found it is best to schedule meeting dates as early as possible in the year and plan to hold those meetings on a day and time that does not conflict with other CCJSCA board or committee meetings.

(5) Past Year's Committee Goals:

Present Chief Chats, solicit topic ideas from full membership.

(6) Committee's Work and Accomplishments:

Chief Chats in March 2025 (Appeals on Wheels) and June 2025 (AI in the Courts) September 2025 (Rural Representation Crisis.)

(7) Work in Progress:

Upcoming Chief Chats

(8) Suggestions for Transition:

Identify Co-Chair at the beginning of year and include that person in scheduling and running committee meetings.

(9) Resources available to committee/Need for resources:

None.

(10) Challenges:

To publicize Chat events to our membership and encourage registration, the Chief Chat Moderator needs to provide a description/write-up of the upcoming Chat. This needs to be done and provided to Cassie early enough for people to get the dates on their calendars and to allow enough time for the sign up.

(11) Strategies and Other Suggestions:

None.

(12) Helpful Tips:

Here is a summary of prior topics:

May 2021

Coronavirus Pandemic and Navigating Remote Court

March 2, 2022

The Uses of the Appellate Elbow – Law Clerks and Central Staff Attorneys
Moderated by Judge Jack Sabatino (NJ)

May 12, 2022

The Chief and Cybersecurity
Moderated by Judge Gary Lynch (MO)

September 22, 2022

Leadership Skills and Appellate Judges, focusing on whether gender and diversity affects leadership styles
Moderated by Michele Christiansen Forster (UT)

March 3, 2023

Onboarding and Welcoming New Colleagues
Moderated by Judge Donna Stroud (NC)

May 4, 2023

Collegiality. Dealing with Difficult Colleagues, and Navigating Dissents
Moderated by Judge Marla Decker (VI)

September 7, 2023

Judges and Social Media
Moderated by Judge Stephen Dillard (GA)

March 28, 2024

AI and New Technologies in Appellate Courts
Moderated by Judge Hector LaSalle (NY)

May 23, 2024

Judicial Conduct Issues
Moderated by Judge Jeff Taylor (KY) and Judge Thomas Bower (IA)

August 22, 2024

Wellness. Aging, and Retirement with Judge Brian Quinn
Moderated by Judge Donna Stroud (NC)

September 2024

Civility and Incivility – The Impact on Wellness in the Legal Profession and the Courts
Moderated by Judge Michele Christiansen Forster (UT)

August 22, 2024

Wellness. Movin' Down the Road

Moderated by Michelle Zellner, M.S. Kinesiology with Chief Justice Brian Quinn (TX)

March 5, 2025

Appeals on Wheels

Judge Nancy Vaidik with Anne Fuchs, Director of Communications (IN)

June 12, 2025

AI in the Courts

Judge Darlene Byrne (TX) and Judge Mark Green (MA)

September 11, 2025

Rural Representation Crisis

Judge Nancy Vaidik (IN) and Judge Elizabeth Garry (NY)