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**From:** Gonzalez, Ronald [mailto:ronald.gonzalez@hillsdale.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg, Beth  
**Subject:** RE: 12/3/10

The paralegal for Kerry Adams.

Ron Gonzalez  
Circuit Civil Division  
Edgecomb Courthouse  
800 E. Twiggs Street Rm 530  
Tampa, FL 33602  
Telephone (813) 276-8100 Ext. 4883

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**From:** Schatzberg, Beth [mailto:beth.schatzberg@hillsdale.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 11:24 AM  
**To:** Gonzalez, Ronald  
**Subject:** RE: 12/3/10

Who is the def atty that is saying that?

---

**From:** Gonzalez, Ronald [mailto:ronald.gonzalez@hillsdale.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg, Beth  
**Subject:** RE: 12/3/10

Question, Can a def be in the court for a telephonic hearing? We have a 2pm case today and the def attorney is telling him he cannot go due to no room.

Ron Gonzalez  
Circuit Civil Division  
Edgecomb Courthouse  
800 E. Twiggs Street Rm 530  
Tampa, FL 33602  
Telephone (813) 276-8100 Ext. 4883

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**From:** Schatzberg, Beth [mailto:beth.schatzberg@hillsdale.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 10:28 AM  
**To:** Gonzalez, Ronald  
**Subject:** RE: 12/3/10

Sounds like a personal problem to me!!

---

**From:** Gonzalez, Ronald [mailto:ronald.gonzalez@hillsdale.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 10:22 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg, Beth  
**Subject:** 12/3/10

Is the other view for 12/03/10 available? We you those to put in the slugs that go back on the shelf.

Ron Gonzalez  
Circuit Civil Division  
Edgecomb Courthouse  
800 E. Twiggs Street Rm 530

Tampa, FL 33602  
Telephone (813) 276-8100 Ext. 4883

**Melendi, Rick**

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2010 10:02 AM  
**To:** Greno, Linda; Barton, James  
**Subject:** JAWS New Upload Feature - Section I & II

As a follow up to your inquiry during yesterday's meeting with the foreclosure sr. judges regarding the above, please be advised that Presidio informs me that this feature should be deployed early next week.

## Melendi, Rick

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**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:19 AM  
**To:** Barton, James ; Melendi, Rick; Wells, Tracy  
**Cc:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Subject:** FW: CSWC: Court Statistics and Workload Committee (CSWC) Decision Needed  
**Attachments:** Data Reporting Plan\_CSWC\_20100712\_final.pdf

This is the proposed data reporting requirements for the backlog project. Provided below are my votes. Just keeping you in the loop. This should be finalized and sent out to the circuit next week.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*

Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800  
bridenml@fjud13.org  
[www.fjud13.org](http://www.fjud13.org)



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**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike; 'Barbara Dawicke'; Keith Cary; 'Debbie Burch'; 'Dusty Going (JA)'; Grant Slayden; 'Judge Ellen S. Masters (Chair)'; 'Judge Ilona M. Holmes'; 'Judge J. Preston Silvernail'; 'Judge Jonathan Sjostrom'; 'Judge Peter F. Marshall'; 'Judge Shelley J. Kravitz'; William L. Wright; 'Linda Grubbs (JA)'; 'Linda Maina (JA)'; 'Lorraine Gauss (JA)'; 'Marion Barclay (Asst)'; Proctor, Martin; 'Mary White'; 'Patricia Cantrell (Asst)'; 'Paula Watkins'; 'Philip G. Schlissel'; 'Susan Kellum'; Wells, Tracy; Lapierre, Valerie  
**Cc:** 'slaydenk@flcourts.org'; 'P.J. Stockdale'; 'Arlene Johnson'  
**Subject:** RE: CSWC: Court Statistics and Workload Committee (CSWC) Decision Needed

Decision 1

No doubt this will be a significant workload burden on court staff. However, we just do not have an option not to collect data necessary to monitor the project. Each judicial circuit received additional staff resources. This task should be given priority in the allocation of these new resources. I think OSCA staff, with input from judges and trial court staff, have done a very good job of identifying the minimum data requirements.

Decision 2

I support collapsing SRS categories into one general category for this project.

Decision 3

I support collapsing SRS disposition types to three general categories for this project.

Decision 4

I support option 1

Decision 5

I agree with the staff's recommendation to initially set all case status to "inactivity or pending – other."

Decision 6

I agree with the definitions of reopen event and disposition as proposed by staff. Tracking reopen cases will most likely be one of our most difficult task. We are trading new ground without any real foundation of experience with documenting this process.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael L. Bridenbach  
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[www.fljud13.org](http://www.fljud13.org)



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**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 2:40 PM  
**To:** Barbara Dawicke; Keith Cary; Debbie Burch; Dusty Going (JA); Grant Slayden; Judge Ellen S. Masters (Chair); Judge Ilona M. Holmes; Judge J. Preston Silvernail; Judge Jonathan Sjostrom; Judge Peter F. Marshall; Judge Shelley J. Kravitz; William L. Wright; Linda Grubbs (JA); Linda Maina (JA); Lorraine Gauss (JA); Marion Barclay (Asst); Proctor, Martin; Mary White; Patricia Cantrell (Asst); Paula Watkins; Philip G. Schlissel; Susan Kellum; Wells, Tracy; Lapierre, Valerie  
**Cc:** slaydenk@flcourts.org; P.J. Stockdale; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** CSWC: Court Statistics and Workload Committee (CSWC) Decision Needed  
**Importance:** High

Members,

Our committee has received another emergency issue to address that requires it be handled by email instead of a scheduled conference call. Judge Masters has asked me to chair this issue for her. Attached is a discussion of the Data Collection Plan for the Foreclosure and Economic Recover Initiative. As many of you are aware, the Legislature allotted the courts \$6 million to provide extra resources to alleviate much of the real property foreclosure backlog. While basic statistics and initiative targets will be computed via SRS, the TCBC has also determined that additional case activity data is necessary to summarize the initiative for the Legislature. The TCBC has requested that the CSWC review and approve this aspect of the project.

The attached discussions describes the proposed data collection plan and presents several decisions for the members. Please review the attached materials and provide a vote to Arlene Johnson or other committee staff (Kris Slayden, [slaydenk@flcourts.org](mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org), PJ Stockdale, [stockdap@flcourts.org](mailto:stockdap@flcourts.org)) on decisions one through six no later than close of business on Thursday 7/14. The data collection workbooks are scheduled to be sent to the TCAs on Monday 7/19.

Additionally, if there are any areas of this plan that you feel bear further discussion or can be further improved, please provide your comments to the members and staff as soon as possible so that these issues may be fully considered.

Please feel free to contact myself or committee staff if you have questions or need additional information.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*

Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
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[www.fjud13.org](http://www.fjud13.org)



## Hickmon,Angelina

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 10:40 AM  
**To:** Moreno,Elisa; Hickmon,Angelina; Schatzberg,Beth; Gammage,Trillany; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan  
**Cc:** Barton, James ; Wells, Tracy  
**Subject:** FW: JAWS code deployment 08302010  
**Importance:** High

FYI – The new upload requirement feature in JAWS has been deployed (see bullet point 2 below). Accordingly, I would request that the case managers monitor whether the new upload requirement cuts down on the number of final summary judgment and motion hearings from being scheduled and heard where not all pleadings and documentation were filed prior to the hearing being held.

Thank you.

**From:** Roberts, Julie [<mailto:jroberts@PRESIDIO.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 9:28 AM  
**To:** Sedita, Susan; Puig, Caryn; Greno, Linda; Hecksher, Sandra L.; Gutierrez, N. Sue; Fish, Mary; Openchowski, Sasha; D'Agresta, Robyn R.; Williams, Judy; Williamson, Linda; Gomez, Myra; Oakes, Jacquelyn; Stephens, Steven; Mynatt, Ann E.; Belliveau,Hillary; Smith, Lisa E. (JA); Davis, Linda; Flowers,Suzanne; Morgan, Jackie; Baker,Mona; Jones, Kortina; Gillen, Anita; Scollin,Laurie; Burt, Cynthia; Lauderdale, Carmen E.; Martinez, Alicia; Stone, Denise; Meehan, Lynn; Wills, Anissa; Harris, Cheryl; Thomas, Teresa; Gilbert, Adrienne; Lapierre, Valerie; Reeves, Vicki L.; Casper, Joy; Schoonover, Selena; Browning, Diana; Julian, Donna M.  
**Cc:** Bellan, Steve; Drake, Patricia; Schemenauer, Jayson; Tonya Grimes - Contact; Melendi, Rick; Noll, Sharon; Stafford, Becki; Gant, Kimberly; Snell,Janell; Lemmons, Michael; DEMELJR; Carlton, David; Flores,Roberto; Ktaylor; Lee, Bekida; John Betancourt  
**Subject:** JAWS code deployment 08302010  
**Importance:** High

All –

New code was deployed last night for JAWS. The new changes include:

- Only scheduling attorney (or JA/Judge) can cancel a hearing
- If the check box for file upload is checked, then when an attorney schedules a hearing it will force them to upload a file. Please note we do not validate what file is uploaded therefore it is up to the internal judicial staff to review the uploaded file to make sure it is what is requested/needed.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks  
Julie

Julie Roberts | Network Architect | South | Presidio Networked Solutions  
5622 HillView Ct, Lakeland, FL 33810 | [jroberts@PRESIDIO.com](mailto:jroberts@PRESIDIO.com)  
D: | M: 863.398.4959 | [www.presidio.com](http://www.presidio.com)  
CCNP, PMP # 55412



## Hickmon,Angelina

---

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 11:25 AM  
**To:** Hickmon,Angelina; Moreno,Elisa; Wells, Tracy; Schatzberg,Beth; Gammage,Trillany; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan  
**Cc:** Arguelles, Yasmin; Potts, Blanca; Romero,Yvonne; Davis, Sandra; Guerra, Carmen; Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** CHANGES IN STAFF ASSISTANCE

FYI,

Carmen Guerra will be assisting in **Section II Foreclosures** in Yasmin's place until further notice. Yasmin has been assigned to other duties within her department.

Thank you.

Tracy.

## Hickmon,Angelina

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** Tracy, Deb; Wells, Tracy; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan  
**Cc:** Schatzberg,Beth; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Moreno,Elisa; Pisacane, Elvira  
**Subject:** RE: DAILY DOCKETS

As a reminder, please provide a "copy" of the original daily docket. Section I & II case managers need to retain the original.

Thanks.

**From:** Tracy, Deb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:48 AM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan  
**Cc:** Schatzberg,Beth; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Moreno,Elisa; Pisacane, Elvira; Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** RE: DAILY DOCKETS

I don't know who is the person for Section II, but, whoever you are, when you bring the daily docket up, would you please let me know so I can be sure to pick it up as quickly as possible? You could even just give me a call or send me an e-mail and I'll be more than happy to go down there and pick it up. ☺

My number is 2-8569. Thanks!

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:45 AM  
**To:** Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan  
**Cc:** Schatzberg,Beth; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Moreno,Elisa; Tracy, Deb; Pisacane, Elvira; Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** DAILY DOCKETS

ALERT!

All of you know that I am leaving on vacation today. In my absence, please leave the daily dockets (either at the end of each day or first thing in the morning) with the receptionist on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Edgecomb.

The data entry team will pick those up daily from Alina.

Thank you.

## Hickmon,Angelina

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Moreno,Elisa; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Subject:** FW: Tentative Meeting w/ Clerk's office

The meeting with the clerk's office today @ 3:30 has been confirmed. The meeting will take place in Judge Barton's hearing room (512).

See you then.

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2010 4:46 PM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Moreno,Elisa; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Subject:** Tentative Meeting w/ Clerk's office

A tentative meeting with the clerk's office has been scheduled for tomorrow – 8/20/10 @ 3:30. Once I confirm the meeting in the a.m. tomorrow, I will send you an email confirming the time and location. The clerk wishes to discuss the issues that both our respective offices may have up to this point in the project.

## Moreno,Elisa

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 12:22 PM  
**To:** Hickmon,Angelina; Moreno,Elisa; Valdes,Ryan; caranant@hillsclerk.com; healy@hillsclerk.com; Causey,Michael  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy; Bridenback, Mike; Snavely Carla; Greno, Linda; Barton, James ; Albury, Janice; Schatzberg,Beth; Gammage,Trillany; Sequeira, Maria; Roberts, Julie; Drake, Patricia; Stafford, Becki; Gant, Kimberly; Taylor, Kenneth  
**Subject:** Section I - Mortgage Foreclosure Hearings - week of November 29, 2010

Dear All,

Please be advised that starting the week of November 29, 2010 to June 30, 2011, Section I – Mortgage Foreclosure hearings will be conducted in CR 500. The only exception to the above are the weeks of January 31, 2011 and March 7, 2011 and March 14, 2011. During those three (3) weeks only, Section I will conduct its hearings in CR 501 (Arnold).

If any of you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2010-052  
(Supplements Administrative Order S-2009-098)**

**RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE PROCEDURES**

The Florida Legislature has authorized and designated funds for the purpose of processing the backlog of residential mortgage foreclosure cases. It is necessary to establish and implement appropriate procedures in order to effectuate this legislative purpose. Accordingly, two sections within the General Civil Division of the Circuit Court and procedures relating to the processing of residential foreclosure cases are hereby established.

By the power vested in the chief judge under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is therefore ORDERED:

1. General Civil Division Sections

All existing and newly filed residential foreclosure cases ("RF") will be assigned to one of two newly created General Civil Division Sections as follows:

Section I – cases filed in General Civil Divisions A, B, C, D, & F

Section II – cases filed in General Civil Divisions G, H, I, J & K

2. Case Filings

Any existing or newly filed residential mortgage foreclosure pleadings, motions and other papers will be designated as assigned to Section I or Section II in accordance with section 1 of this administrative order. All motions should be submitted to the appropriate Section I or Section II judge.

3. Case Identification

Attorneys must indicate the appropriate Section on all papers and pleadings filed with the clerk by designating the Section and "RF" beneath the case number and division as set forth in the example below:

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION,  
Plaintiff,

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

v.

DIVISION: [A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I,J or K]

JANE DOE,  
Defendant.

RF – SECTION [I] or [II]

4. Calendaring

Attorneys must schedule all hearings in Section I and Section II through the Judicial Automated Workflow System ("JAWS"). JAWS may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.fljud13.org/JAWSpage.htm>. A copy of any motion scheduled and the notice of hearing must be uploaded at the time the hearing is scheduled. Unrepresented parties may schedule hearings by telephoning the appropriate senior secretary in Section I at (813) 272-8572 or Section II at (813) 272-5121.

5. Telephonic Hearings

For any telephonic hearings, all parties must be conferenced in prior to the call being placed to the court.

6. Foreclosure Packets

All foreclosure packets must be received at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled hearing. All packets must include the original proposed final judgment along with sufficient copies of the final judgment, certificate of sale, certificate of disbursement, certificate of title, and three (3) sets of stamped addressed envelopes.

7. Sale Dates

Judicial sales will be held by the clerk daily (excluding weekends and holidays) at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

8. Cancellation of Judicial Sale

The deadline for cancellation of a judicial sale and for the payment of the clerk's sale fee is the day of the scheduled sale, no later than 9:30 a.m. for any 10:00 a.m. sale, and no later than 1:30 p.m. for any 2:00 p.m. sale. The clerk will cancel any scheduled foreclosure sale upon receipt, no later than these deadlines, of a Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale submitted by plaintiff's counsel. The clerk will accept a facsimile of the Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale at the number designated on the clerk's website at [www.hillsclerk.com](http://www.hillsclerk.com) (Foreclosure Sales) and the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit website at [www.fljud13.org](http://www.fljud13.org) (General Civil Division). The original Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale must be filed with the clerk. The uniform Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale form may be found at [www.fljud13.org/formspage.asp](http://www.fljud13.org/formspage.asp).

9. Previous Administrative Order Supplemented

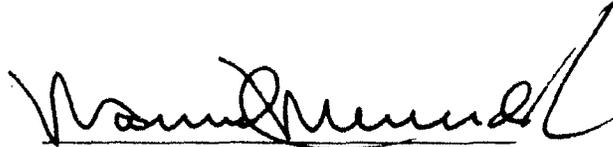
The procedures implemented by this administrative order supplement the procedures of Administrative Order S-2009-098 (*Foreclosure Procedures*), which remain in full force and effect.

10. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective July 1, 2010. All hearings currently scheduled for July 2010 will be heard by the appropriate Section I or Section II judge at

the time and date designated in the Notice of Hearing. Beginning August 2, 2010, all hearings will be scheduled and heard as described in this administrative order.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Menendez, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of the Court  
Copy to: All General Civil Division Judges  
Hillsborough County Bar Association

## Wells, Tracy

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**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** RE: Data Entry Test - Disposed

Tell Roberto he is awesome!

T.

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:55 PM  
**To:** Valdes,Ryan; Wells, Tracy  
**Cc:** Bridenback, Mike; Flores,Roberto  
**Subject:** Data Entry Test - Disposed

The status change box which now includes the data element/option – “Disposed” was tested. Please be advised that the test was “successful”. Thanks to: Roberto

## Bridenback, Mike

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**From:** Gary Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Personnel Reps  
**Cc:** Trial Court Administrators; Terri Williams; David Pepper  
**Subject:** OPS Positions for Foreclosure Backlog/Economic Recovery  
**Attachments:** Econ.foreclosure.positions.xls

**Importance:** High

Good morning all,

As you know, each circuit submitted a plan for how you will use temporary funding to tackle the backlog of foreclosure of real property cases. You might be using Senior Judges, contracting, using OPS magistrates, case managers and secretaries; or some combination of resources for this purpose.

**This message pertains to OPS resources only** (magistrates, case managers and secretaries). Attached is a spreadsheet that I need for you to fill out and return to my office as soon as possible by listing the OPS resources you intend to use for this project. This information is necessary so we can assign position numbers to OPS resources that you intend to use, and so we can get the resources set up in People First. The sooner you supply our office with this information, the sooner we can provide position numbers for your upcoming OPS hires.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call or e-mail.

Thanks,  
Gary

Gary R. Phillips, SPHR  
Chief of Personnel Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
500 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900  
phone: 850-617-4028  
fax: 850-488-3744  
email: [REDACTED]

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY/FORECLOSURE BACKLOG OPS RESOURCES**

CIRCUIT	FTE	CLASS CODE	CLASS TITLE
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**Bridenback, Mike**

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**From:** Snavelly, Carla [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Cc:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** Meeting with Case Managers for new foreclosure process

*Mike,*

*As soon as you have your staff for the new foreclosure division hired I would like to have our staff meet with them so they can discuss workflow. Please let me know when they are on board and I will have Jonna set a meeting.*

*Thanks Carla*

## **Bridenback, Mike**

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2010 12:15 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy; Albury, Janice; Noll, Sharon  
**Subject:** FW: Office/Courtroom Location & Phone Numbers / Foreclosure Sections I & II

fyi

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 2:22 PM  
**To:** Greno, Linda; Barton, James  
**Cc:** Noll, Sharon  
**Subject:** FW: Office/Courtroom Location & Phone Numbers / Foreclosure Sections I & II

Judge,

For ease of use and convenience, I revised the original email contacting the office/courtroom locations and contact information.

rtm

### **Section I**

(General Civil, Divisions A, B, C, D & F)

#### **Judicial Office, Suite 513**

Office - Phone No.: (813) 272-8572  
Hearing Room - Phone No.: (813) 272-8575  
Senior Judge - Phone No.: (813) 272-8571

#### **Judicial Library, Room 515**

Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8583  
Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8584

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### **Section II**

(General Civil, Divisions G, H, I, J & K)

#### **Judicial Office, Suite 422 & Courtroom 409**

Office Phone No.: (813) 272-5121  
Courtroom - Phone No.: (813) 272-8581  
Senior Judge - Phone No.: (813) 272-5773

#### **Room 425**

Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8578  
Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8579

## **Bridenback, Mike**

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** Barton, James ; Greno, Linda; Baumann, Herbert J.; Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** Mortgage Foreclosure Project

I am pleased to announce to each of you that we just disposed of our 1st residential mortgage foreclosure.

## Bridenback, Mike

---

**From:** Barbara Dawicke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** Trial Court Administrators  
**Subject:** Foreclosure questions

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear All:

If possible, please help me out with the following questions by responding by this Wednesday or Thursday (August 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>):

1. When a summary judgment is entered by the Court, it takes approximately how long before the information is docketed by the clerk?
2. In your circuit, is there a delay with the clerk holding the sales of the foreclosed properties? If so, what is that lag time?
3. In your circuit, what is the time of sale to issuance of certificate of title?
4. In your circuit, is there a lag time with the docketing of other foreclosure documents (other than summary judgments) and if so, approximately how long does it take the docket to reflect the filing?
5. What is the standard docket time for a newly filed foreclosure filing?

---

Please be advised that Florida has a broad public records law, and all correspondence to me via email may be subject to disclosure. Under Florida records law (SB80 effective 7-01-06), email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send public records request to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

## Bridenback, Mike

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**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 4:40 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: foreclosure hearings

Barton and I just spoke. He suggested setting a trial date with a cut off for the filing and hearing of a summary judgment motion about a month or two before the scheduled trial date. That should weed out 99.9% of all the cases. Should any actually go to trial, the regular division judges can handle it. I am told they are not being set in the numbers we need to achieve the goal. I don't want to explain attorney practice as an excuse for not being able to meet the goal. The legislature hates attorneys as it is, and the courts are not their favorites also. It would just give them an excuse to do who knows what. We can discuss the budget issues you have, but if at all possible we do need to take a proactive approach rather than just wait for them to set the hearings.

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 4:32 PM  
**To:** Menendez, Manuel; Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: foreclosure hearings

We need to talk about this approach. I have serious concerns about our ability to do this with the limited resources we have. I would prefer to document that the case was not disposed due to attorney practice than try to set up hearings we know the attorneys will want to change the dates due to conflicts with other hearings. I think we would get more bang for our efforts by identifying cases with no activity that we can put on a dismissal docket.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800  
[www.tjud13.org](http://www.tjud13.org)



---

**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike; Barton, James  
**Subject:** foreclosure hearings  
**Importance:** High

I understand that the volume of cases being set for summary judgment hearings before our senior judges are not the volume we had hoped (to-wit: only 56 cases yesterday). I suggest we immediately start scheduling foreclosure cases for trial.

*Manuel Menendez, Jr.*  
*Chief Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida*  
*800 E. Twiggs St., Suite 602, Tampa, FL 33602*  
*813-272-5022*

## Sequeira, Maria

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**From:** Greno, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 8:56 AM  
**To:** Sequeira, Maria  
**Subject:** RE: Question

File a motion & set for hearing on the Friday docket

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**From:** Sequeira, Maria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 03, 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** Question

If someone wants to File a Request to be Reinstated in the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Program, how would they proceed in doing this?

## Moreno,Elisa

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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 2:44 PM  
**To:** Hickmon,Angelina; Moreno,Elisa; Gammage,Trillany  
**Subject:** FW: JAWS

fyi

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg,Beth; Thullbery, Heather  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy  
**Subject:** RE: JAWS

Beth,

I requested that the helpdesk give all case managers and sr. secretaries access and training to both JAWS and Banner. It is my understanding that JAWS training is being coordinated for some time today or tomorrow based on the case managers availability.

I would discourage the entry of notes into JAWS based on the fact that when we start in August with the fully booked calendars, the case managers will not have time to do so. My suggestion to all case managers is to make notes on the docket.

Thank you.

**From:** Schatzberg,Beth  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 8:15 AM  
**To:** Thullbery, Heather  
**Cc:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** JAWS

Is it possible for me to get access to JAWS on my computer – we are wanting to type in some notes in the case files & I am still blocked? I have been using JAWS since April and very comfortable in the program.

Thanks!  
Beth

## **Wells, Tracy**

---

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2010 11:28 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg,Beth; Gammage,Trillany  
**Subject:** RE: Hearings

Beth,  
Beth,

When I have to come down and pick-up work from both Section I & Section II when I have my own job to do, it is a problem. If you and Trillany would like to meet with me today after you get out of court so that I can explain to you exactly what it is Maria should be doing, please let me know. There is too much work to do to keep addressing the same issues over and over again.

If you two would like to volunteer and trade places with Maria one day to see how just how busy she is, I am sure she would not mind.

T.

---

**From:** Schatzberg,Beth  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2010 10:48 AM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Hickmon,Angelina; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan; Gammage,Trillany  
**Cc:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Hearings

We are good with not needing telephone communications during the week, it's just on Fridays with the Motion docket that communication helps. During the week, only 1 atty calls in for each 30 minute window.

---

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2010 10:45 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg,Beth; Hickmon,Angelina; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan; Gammage,Trillany  
**Cc:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** Hearings

For your information,

I am going to sit in the courtroom on Monday and Tuesday (Sections I & II ) to observe to see if it is necessary to have to telecommute via- e-mail during hearings.

T.

## Wells, Tracy

---

**From:** Moreno,Elisa  
**Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 2:34 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy  
**Subject:** RE: Annotations of Daily Dockets

Will do!

Thanks,

Elisa

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 12:18 PM  
**To:** Hickmon,Angelina; Moreno,Elisa; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy  
**Subject:** Annotations of Daily Dockets

Good Afternoon, Ladies:

This may be a regular annotating practice in which you have already been engaged in doing; but, just in case, I need for each of you to incorporate this into your daily case management practices and start annotating on the dockets all hearings that are cancelled - by whom and why, all hearing re-sets- by whom and why (if known), and all no-shows – who no showed attorney, respondent/defendant starting today in the p.m.

Thanks.

## **Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Barton, James  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** Menendez, Manuel; Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Chief Justice Canady

The individuals I have questioned about this issue confirm that they understand that foreclosure hearings are open to the public and indicated that they would not have told anyone that the hearings are closed. It is imperative that the "court observer" inform us who she or he talked to and when. If anyone in our courthouse has mistakenly described our hearings as anything other than public, we need to know so that we can correct the problem. As far as I can discern, we do not have a record of this alleged call or any of the countless other foreclosure-related calls that are received by our staff.

---

**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 10:17 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike; Barton, James  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Chief Justice Canady  
**Importance:** High

We made it first on the list of evil doers! We MUST train everyone who deals with the public to emphasize that our court proceedings are indeed OPEN to the public. Do we have a record of who took this alleged call, and who it was who called? I'd like advise the Chief Justice TODAY.

---

**From:** Lisa Goodner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 9:51 AM  
**To:** Trial Court Chief Judges; Trial Court Administrators  
**Cc:** OSCA-MANAGERS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Chief Justice Canady

FYI.

Lisa

---

**From:** Larry Schwartzol [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2010 7:07 PM  
**To:** Craig Waters  
**Subject:** Letter to Chief Justice Canady

Craig,

I hope this email finds you well. As I mentioned earlier today, the ACLU is working with a coalition of organizations representing members of the Florida news media to protest barriers to access to foreclosure proceedings around the state of Florida. The attached letter will be delivered by UPS to the Chief Justice on Monday morning, and we expect to issue a press release that afternoon. In order to give the Chief Justice advance notice, we wanted to send this to you now. If you wouldn't mind forwarding this to the Chief Justice, I would greatly appreciate it.

Best,

Larry

Larry Schwartzol | Staff Attorney

*Racial Justice Program*

**The American Civil Liberties Union**

125 Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor | New York, NY 10004

Phone: 212-519-7849

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~

**Bridenback, Mike**

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**From:** Callanan, Richard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 3:14 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale; Bridenback, Mike  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ

Sorry for the cutoff on last email. We will send comments next week.

20th Circuit - Integrity, Fairness, Service

---

On Jul 1, 2010 2:24 PM, P.J. Stockdale <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mike, Rick,

Please find attached a copy of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System (fercts\_devel\_v10-8-1a.xls). We know it isn't a complete solution but I guess the first question we have is whether this application is workable to capture this data. The idea was to find some balance between the needs of small and large circuits. I would be most appreciative to hear your suggestions on how we might make this application more usable for the initiative staff. There are still a few minor bugs that we are working out but all the major components work. In order to meet our deadline to get the workbooks out to the circuits by 7/16, I will need to finalize the application by next Friday (7/9)

I've also attached a draft summary which contains a brief overview of the application and a list of the data captured along with their definitions. Mostly we used the standard SRS definitions. However, there are two fields, case status and reopen closed date that do not have SRS definitions. We have proposed a definition for these fields that we believe to be consistent with SRS that should help initiative staff complete the workbooks. Please take a look at these, particularly the one for reopen closed date. Does this seem to be a workable definition for this project?

Since this tracking application is based upon VBA macros, there are a few steps that need to be taken to get it installed and running. I've attached a set of installations instructions but you may want to have one of your IT people set it up. Please have your IT folks give me a call, if needed, and I'll go through it with them.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

OSCA - Court Services

Supreme Court Building Annex

500 S Duval St

Tallahassee FL 32301-1900

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---

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[www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)

**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 11:30 AM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** Fwd: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Callanan, Richard" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 8, 2010 10:36:23 AM EDT  
**To:** "P.J. Stockdale" <[REDACTED]>, "Bridenback, Mike" <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** "Fishbeck, Eric" <[REDACTED]>, "Kristine Slayden" <[REDACTED]>, "Arlene Johnson" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ

We think your definition of "reopened" cases is right on the money. It should only include cases reopened and pending final "judicial" action.

We pulled a sample of case marked "reopened" in Clerk systems in Lee and Charlotte and manually went through a sample—as you know, it is complicated by the fact that the clerks:

(1) Mark foreclosure cases as "reopened" for many reasons , i.e. postponement of sale ( online sales are often cancelled) after default judgment by the court, etc. For our purposes, and under your definition, these cases are in fact "closed". A very small percentage of cases marked "reopened" by the clerk ( less than 5% from our sample)are actually reopened pending further judicial action, e.g. motion to vacate dismissal and reopen, motion to vacate mediation settlement due to failure to carry out terms of settlement etc.

We intend to obtain separate pending case extract report list for "reopened" cases, with a listing of last event/date and work through those to note as "closed" where we can determine the case is simply pending clerk action. This will be time consuming, but I think necessary.

(2) We are told by Lee and Charlotte clerks, that once a case is marked as reopened, they have no way to capture the second "closed" date. As such, the clerk system will not report date closed on reopened cases. That means this will often require manual search of the case file. In Charlotte county alone, they have about 10% of the entire pending caseload in "reopened" status, so this will be very labor intensive on the circuits. We are trying to get funding to hire 2 additional interns (on county payroll) to go through all of the reopened cases as of 6/30/10. That way we will at least start with a clean count. Keeping this up to date is going to be very labor intensive for the circuits.

Rick

---

**From:** P.J. Stockdale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 10:04 AM  
**To:** Callanan, Richard; Mike Bridenback  
**Cc:** Fishbeck, Eric; Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

Rick,

Thanks for the feedback. We have had some great feedback on this and we presenting all of the recommendations to the Court Statistics and Workload Committee. Hopefully, we can get these details nailed down at last.

There was one other issue that we wanted your feedback on. Actually, Mike, we would like your feedback as well. That is the definition of when a reopened case is closed. There is no formal definition in SRS for this event and we want case managers and initiative staff to have a clear picture of when the case is closed. We used the SRS definition for dispositions as a basis tailored it to specifically to the initiative. Please edit the below definition if you think it needs more discrete direction for the case manager.

*Date Reopen Event Closed – report reopen cases as closed after the final judicial decision which terminates court proceedings, including a summary/final judgment or order entered by the court, and that transfers the case to the clerk of court for action to complete sale.*

Thanks again

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

OSCA - Court Services

Supreme Court Building Annex

500 S Duval St

Tallahassee FL 32301-1900

(ph) 850.410.1523

(fax) 850.414.1342

---

**From:** Callanan, Richard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 6:05 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale  
**Cc:** Fishbeck, Eric; Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson; Mike Bridenback  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ,

I definitely agree with Mike's idea to limit the case type categories.

We have spent a lot of time with local staff, reviewing these codes and reporting elements, and our biggest problem is the large number of status codes and difficulty in capturing the status code changes. We have some ideas on simplifying the "status codes", since this is the real key to the tracking report. It is also the most difficult to capture since the clerk in the courtroom is the only real-time way to get the status changes and the clerks systems do not capture them in any detailed way.

Anyway, here is our suggestion, and Eric Fishbeck will be calling you to discuss in more detail:

1. Reduce the status codes from nine to four categories: (1) Active, (2) Stayed -Bankruptcy/Other, (3) Inactivity by Attorney/Abatement or (4) Closed. . Most clerks systems can report on at least 3 of these 4 status codes, and with a possible extract report from the clerks system that notes "last event" and "date of last event" staff may be able to research and determine if there was an order staying/inactivating the case. With fewer codes, staff may be able to work with clerks to get these type of extract reports. Frankly, clerks in small counties will a lot of difficulty capturing any data beyond active/inactive/closed.
2. Limit the "Event" reporting to ONLY the "Last Event" , "Date of Last Event" and Status Code otherwise this gets way to cumbersome. Don't try to capture all events and dates of status change through this report. If we want interim time and event analysis , we can do that with sampling.

Eric will be calling with some other thoughts and to discuss in detail..

Thanks again for the chance to comment.

Rick

---

**From:** P.J. Stockdale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale; Callanan, Richard  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

Rick,

Just wanted to follow up on your thoughts for the foreclosure case tracking application. Mike has suggested reducing the SRS case types to one single type "Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure" as there isn't any real need to break it out further. It seems clear from the ongoing discussion up here that the primary purpose of this reporting application is to capture some solid activity data about foreclosure cases rather than disposition data on specific case types so I am very interested in your take on the status values. The challenge is to define case status changes that are broad enough that it is practical to capture the data while making them specific enough to describe the evolution of the case. We've had some good input from Mike and Judge Bailey in this area.

I apologize for rushing a little but we are trying to lock down the details so that we can present to the Court Statistics and Workload Committee on Monday. I look forward to hearing from you.

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

OSCA - Court Services

Supreme Court Building Annex

500 S Duval St

Tallahassee FL 32301-1900

(ph) 850.410.1523

(fax) 850.414.1342

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**From:** P.J. Stockdale  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 3:56 PM  
**To:** Richard Callanan; Mike Bridenback  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

Rick,

Thanks for the quick response. The clerks in each county will be providing OSCA with a base list of pending foreclosure cases outstanding as of June 30, 2010. The OSCA will preload a set of workbooks for each circuit. Assuming the Court Statistics and Workload Committee signs off on the data plan, we expect to have the working data out to the circuits by 7/16.

I understand what you are saying, Rick. It is something we struggled with as we put this together. Coming up with something that will help those circuits that need it without hobbling the operations of other circuits has been quite a challenge. Of course, that is why we sent the workbooks out to you. Now is a good time for some feedback and discussion.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks again

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

OSCA - Court Services

Supreme Court Building Annex

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(ph) 850.410.1523

(fax) 850.414.1342

---

**From:** Callanan, Richard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 3:10 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale; Mike Bridenback  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ

Thank you for the chance to review and comment. Will the clerks or osca be providing the base list/excel file of pending cases? I am reviewing this with my IT, statistical reporting and civil folks and will get you comments next week.

As I mentioned to you, I understand the need for case status tracking to identify delayed cases and we have local MIS pending case reports from most clerks already to help track and move cases. I don't think having a case manager data enter this manually for 59000 cases is the best way to do this on case by case basis.

That said we are looking at ways to pull the majority of these status codes from clerk database and will

20th Circuit - Integrity, Fairness, Service

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On Jul 1, 2010 2:24 PM, P.J. Stockdale [REDACTED] wrote:

Mike, Rick,

Please find attached a copy of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System (fercts\_devel\_v10-8-1a.xls). We know it isn't a complete solution but I guess the first question we have is whether this application is workable to capture this data. The idea was to find some balance between the needs of small and large circuits. I would be most appreciative to hear your suggestions on how we might make this application more usable for the initiative staff. There are still a few minor bugs that we are working out but all the major components work. In order to meet our deadline to get the workbooks out to the circuits by 7/16, I will need to finalize the application by next Friday (7/9)

I've also attached a draft summary which contains a brief overview of the application and a list of the data captured along with their definitions. Mostly we used the standard SRS definitions. However, there are two fields, case status and reopen closed date that do not have SRS definitions. We have proposed a definition for these fields that we believe to be consistent with SRS that should help initiative staff complete the workbooks. Please take a look at these, particularly the one for reopen closed date. Does this seem to be a workable definition for this project?

Since this tracking application is based upon VBA macros, there are a few steps that need to be taken to get it installed and running. I've attached a set of installations instructions but you may want to have one of your IT people set it up. Please have your IT folks give me a call, if needed, and I'll go through it with them.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks

PJ

**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 11:37 AM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** FW: Disposed Cases  
**Attachments:** CLOSED MF H1 H2 H3 N1 N2 N3 CASES.xlsx; CLOSED C1 C2 C3 CASES.xlsx

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800  
[REDACTED]  
[www.fjud13.org](http://www.fjud13.org)



---

**From:** Snavely, Carla [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 9:57 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike; Menendez, Manuel  
**Subject:** FW: Disposed Cases

Judge,  
Please see Mortgage Foreclosure Cases that have been closed since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

---

**From:** Pride, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 8:55 AM  
**To:** Snavely, Carla; Leavines, Darlene  
**Cc:** Gary, Angela  
**Subject:** FW: Disposed Cases

Carla,

Here are the reports you requested on yesterday. The first report includes mortgage foreclosure cases, homestead cases, and non-homestead cases. I was not sure if you want commercial so I did a separate report.

Please let me know if you need anything additional.

*Lisa L. Pride, Director  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Circuit Civil Division  
P O Box 989  
Tampa FL 33601  
(813) 276-8100 x4807  
[REDACTED]*

---

**From:** Fryman, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 8:38 AM  
**To:** Pride, Lisa  
**Cc:** Gary, Angela  
**Subject:** RE: Disposed Cases

Lisa,

Attached are 2 excel files:

- 1) MF, H1, H2, H3, N1, N2, N3 cases closed from July 1 thru Aug 31
- 2) C1, C2 & C3 cases closed from July 1 thru Aug 31

Keep in mind if a case was closed between July 1 – Aug 31 and reopened in this same time frame the case will not display on these lists. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Linda

---

**From:** Pride, Lisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 5:37 PM  
**To:** Fryman, Linda  
**Cc:** Gary, Angela  
**Subject:** Disposed Cases

Linda,

Could you please run a report for Carla to use in her AM meeting for foreclosure cases disposed (closed) as of July 1, 2010. The case types are MF, H1, H2, H3, N1, N2, N3. I tried in webfocus however I was not successful.

Please let me know if I need to take another avenue.

Thanks,

*Lisa L Pride, Director  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Circuit Civil Division  
P O Box 989  
Tampa FL 33601  
(813) 276-8100 x4807*



**Melendi, Rick**

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 2:01 PM  
**To:** mnassief@hcsso.tampa.fl.us; csomella@hcsso.tampa.fl.us; sgibson@hcsso.tampa.fl.us; jlivings@hcsso.tampa.fl.us  
**Subject:** Chief Justice Memo to Chief Judges re: Mortgage foreclosure Proceedings  
**Attachments:** Memo to Chief Judges re Mortgage Foreclosure Proceedings.pdf

Please distribute the attached Memo to all HCSO staff involved in the mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

Thank you.

## Melendi, Rick

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** LIVINGSTON, JAMES P  
**Subject:** RE: Chief Justice Memo to Chief Judges re: Mortgage foreclosure Proceedings

Thank you.

---

**From:** LIVINGSTON, JAMES P [<mailto:jlivings@hcsso.tampa.fl.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: Chief Justice Memo to Chief Judges re: Mortgage foreclosure Proceedings

Will do--Thanks

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick [<mailto:MELENDRT@fljud13.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 02:01 PM  
**To:** NASSIEF, MARILYN; SOMELLAN JR, CARLOS; GIBSON, SHANNON; LIVINGSTON, JAMES P  
**Subject:** Chief Justice Memo to Chief Judges re: Mortgage foreclosure Proceedings

Please distribute the attached Memo to all HCSO staff involved in the mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

Thank you.



# Supreme Court of Florida

500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925

CHARLES T. CANADY  
CHIEF JUSTICE  
BARBARA J. PARIENTE  
R. FRED LEWIS  
PEGGY A. QUINCE  
RICKY L. POLSTON  
JORGE LABARGA  
JAMES E.C. PERRY  
JUSTICES

THOMAS D. HALL  
CLERK OF COURT

KEVIN WHITE  
ACTING MARSHAL

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts

**FROM:** Chief Justice Charles T. Canady *CTC*

**DATE:** November 17, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Mortgage Foreclosure Proceedings

---

Enclosed for your review and action is a letter dated November 12, 2010, that I received from the Florida Press Association and other organizations. The letter alleges that in some instances, members of the public and/or press either have been advised that they cannot attend mortgage foreclosure proceedings or have been prevented from attending such proceedings.

As the chief administrative officer of the Florida judicial branch, I am directing all chief judges to examine the current practices within their respective circuits to ensure that those practices are entirely consistent with the constitutional, statutory, procedural rule, and case law requirements of this state regarding the presumption that state court proceedings are open to the public.

I also ask that you communicate with all judges and court staff in your circuit to remind them of the relevant provisions relating to open court proceedings. It is important for you to communicate with the clerks of court and bailiffs within your circuit as well to ensure that those offices provide any visitors

Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts  
November 17, 2010  
Page Two

or callers with the correct information about attendance at mortgage foreclosure or other court proceedings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the Supreme Court's understanding of the goals of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Initiative, which was partially funded by the Legislature during the 2010 Legislative Session. I have reviewed Judge John Laurent's memorandum of October 28, 2010, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein by reference. I agree with his description of the 62-percent goal established by the Trial Court Budget Commission as a means to help measure the court system's progress in the initiative and to document how the appropriation for the foreclosure initiative is being spent. There is no reason why the 62-percent goal should interfere with a judge's ability to adjudicate each case fairly on its merits. Each case must be adjudicated in accordance with the law.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to appropriately administer and resolve the avalanche of mortgage foreclosure cases that have been overwhelming the court system during the past few years. I recognize that the challenge you face in assuring that these cases are resolved properly is unprecedented. I am confident that with the cooperation of all judges and court staff—along with the tools of the revised rules of court procedure, implementation of the managed mediation program, and the influx of court resources through the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Initiative—the Florida courts will be able to meet this challenge in a manner that protects and preserves the rights of all parties as well as interested observers.

CTC/LG/dgh

Enclosures

cc: Trial Court Administrators

## Melendi, Rick

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 1:43 PM  
**To:** Roberts Julie; Noll, Sharon  
**Subject:** RE: Timeframe for developers for Mortgage Foreclosure development

Thank you. I hope to have the green light on Monday, June 14, 2010.

---

**From:** Roberts, Julie [<mailto:jroberts@PRESIDIO.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 12:10 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick; Noll, Sharon  
**Subject:** Timeframe for developers for Mortgage Foreclosure development

Rick and Sharon –

The developers will need 5 days to perform the tasks required for the requested changes for Civil regarding Mortgage Foreclosures. For example if the Judges come back with a cutover date of June 25 Michelle would need to start on June 18. This helps set expectations.

Thanks  
Julie

Julie Roberts | Network Architect | MidAtlantic  
Presidio Networked Solutions | [jroberts@PRESIDIO.com](mailto:jroberts@PRESIDIO.com)  
D: 863.815.1616 | C: 863.398.4959 | [www.presidio.com](http://www.presidio.com)  
CCNP, PMP # 55412



## Melendi, Rick

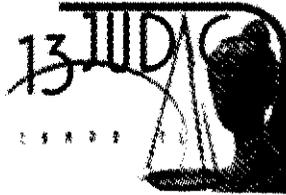
---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2010 3:35 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** 20th Circuit

I talked to Rick Callanan and they also have the same problem and decided to do a trial notice for any case over 12 months old. He is sending me the notice and their calendars. He says so far they are able to disposed of about 60% of the case set. But it is a lot of work and he has had assign staff from other departments to assist. The phone calls are a real problem.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800  
[bridenml@fjud13.org](mailto:bridenml@fjud13.org)  
[www.fjud13.org](http://www.fjud13.org)



## Schatzberg, Beth

---

**From:** Schatzberg, Beth  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 8:26 AM  
**To:** Sequeira, Maria  
**Cc:** Gammage, Trillany  
**Subject:** Docket Annotations

Maria-

We just received this from Rick. It is hard to get the reasons all of the time, but let's try to get as much of it as we can when we get cancellations. I do not have much luck getting specifics when we are on the phone with them in the hearings, but I guess they want more specifics.

Thank you!

Beth

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 8:18 AM  
**To:** Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy; Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** Docket Annotations

Good Morning,

As a result of the increase in hearing cancellations, annotations to the docket will need to start reflecting the reason for cancellation or resetting of the hearing. This information will assist in accurately reporting the monthly data for all hearings.

Therefore, if a hearing is cancelled or reset, the annotation on the docket needs to state a reason and should read as follows:

Cancellation (why?): Annotation: affidavit review/review of documents - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?)

Reset (why?): Annotation – client hold, document review or affidavit review - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?)

FTA – by whom? Reason:?

Note: Please refrain from using Cancellation/Reset - Internal Review (I/R), as an annotation: unless, you provide more specificity as to the reason (e.g., affidavit review/review of documents - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?) for the cancellation or resetting of the hearing. The reason for the cancellation/resetting will need to be entered into the comment section for purposes of the data entry.

Annotations – to be used:

No Final Judgment Packet (No FJP): Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Packet: Annotation: I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage and Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

This annotation document/cheat sheet is a work in progress and subject to further modification as we come across other annotations that are not clear for purposes of data entry.

**Nauman, Chris**

---

**From:** Nauman, Chris  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2010 1:58 PM  
**To:** Nauman, Chris  
**Subject:** FW: Residential Foreclosure Procedures Administrative Order  
**Attachments:** Residential Foreclosure Procedures.docx

ACLU PRR

---

**From:** Nauman, Chris  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** Rowland, Dave  
**Subject:** RE: Residential Foreclosure Procedures Administrative Order

I bolded the section titles, etc. in the attached.

---

**From:** Rowland, Dave  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 2:08 PM  
**To:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Cc:** Barton, James ; Pride, Lisa; Melendi, Rick; Nauman, Chris  
**Subject:** Residential Foreclosure Procedures Administrative Order

Attached is a proposed administrative order regarding the residential foreclosure cases that will be handled by senior judges in Section I and Section II of the General Civil Division. I incorporated the stand-alone "procedures" into the administrative order but left open the possibility for additional procedures to be posted to the website.

If anyone has comments please let me know. Thanks – Dave

---

**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Rowland, Dave  
**Subject:** RMF

*Manuel Menendez, Jr.  
Chief Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida  
800 E. Twiggs St., Suite 602, Tampa, FL 33602  
813-272-5022*

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2010-052  
(Supplements Administrative Order S-2009-098)**

**RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE PROCEDURES**

The Florida Legislature has authorized and designated funds for the purpose of processing the backlog of residential mortgage foreclosure cases. It is necessary to establish and implement appropriate procedures in order to effectuate this legislative purpose. Accordingly, two sections within the General Civil Division of the Circuit Court and procedures relating to the processing of residential foreclosure cases are hereby established.

By the power vested in the chief judge under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is therefore **ORDERED**:

**1. General Civil Division Sections**

All existing and newly filed residential foreclosure cases (“RF”) will be assigned to one of two newly created General Civil Division Sections as follows:

Section I – cases filed in General Civil Divisions A, B, C, D, & F  
Section II – cases filed in General Civil Divisions G, H, I, J & K

**2. Case Filings**

Any existing or newly filed residential mortgage foreclosure pleadings, motions and other papers will be designated as assigned to Section I or Section II in accordance with section 1 of this administrative order. All motions should be submitted to the appropriate Section I or Section II judge.

**3. Case Identification**

Attorneys must indicate the appropriate Section on all papers and pleadings filed with the clerk by designating the Section and “RF” beneath the case number and division as set forth in the example below:

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION,  
Plaintiff,

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

v.

DIVISION: [A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I,J or K]

JANE DOE,  
Defendant.

RF – SECTION [I] or [II]

**4. Calendaring**

Attorneys must schedule all hearings in Section I and Section II through the Judicial Automated Workflow System (JAWS). A copy of any motion scheduled and the notice of hearing must be uploaded at the time the hearing is scheduled. Unrepresented parties may schedule hearings by contacting the senior secretary in the respective Section.

**5. Telephonic Hearings**

For any telephonic hearings, all parties must be conferenced in prior to the call being placed to the court.

**6. Foreclosure Packets**

All foreclosure packets must be received at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled hearing. All packets must include the original proposed final judgment along with sufficient copies of the final judgment, certificate of sale, certificate of disbursement, certificate of title, and three (3) sets of stamped addressed envelopes.

**7. Sale Dates**

Judicial sales will be held daily (excluding weekends and holidays) at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. by the clerk.

**8. Cancellation of Judicial Sale**

The deadline for cancellation of a judicial sale and for the payment of the clerk's sale fee is the day of the scheduled sale, no later than 9:30 a.m. for any 10:00 a.m. sale, and no later than 1:30 p.m. for any 2:00 p.m. sale. The clerk will cancel any scheduled foreclosure sale upon receipt, no later than these deadlines, of a Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale submitted by plaintiff's counsel. The clerk will accept a facsimile of the Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale at the number designated on the clerk's website at [www.hillsclerk.com](http://www.hillsclerk.com) (Foreclosure Sales) and the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit website at [www.fljud13.org](http://www.fljud13.org) (General Civil Division). The original Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale must be filed with the clerk. The uniform Notice of Cancellation of Foreclosure Sale form may be found at [www.fljud13.org/formspage.asp](http://www.fljud13.org/formspage.asp).

**9. Additional Procedures**

Any additional procedures for residential foreclosure cases will be located at <http://www.fljud13.org/divisionspage.asp> (*Residential Foreclosure Procedures for General Civil Division Sections I & II*).

**10. Previous Administrative Order Supplemented**

The procedures implemented by this administrative order supplement the procedures of Administrative Order S-2009-098 (*Foreclosure Procedures*), which remain in full force and effect.

11. **Effective Date**

This administrative order is effective July 1, 2010. All hearings currently scheduled for July 2010 will be heard by the appropriate Section I or Section II judge at the time and date designated in the Notice of Hearing. Beginning August 2, 2010, all hearings will be scheduled and heard as described in this administrative order.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2010.

---

Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of the Court  
Copy to: All General Civil Division Judges  
Hillsborough County Bar Association

## Wells, Tracy

---

**From:** Hickmon, Angelina  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2010 12:14 PM  
**To:** Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany; Sequeira, Maria; Moreno, Elisa; Wells, Tracy; Valdes, Ryan  
**Subject:** Meeting!!

Hello Ladies,

What time will you be free on Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup>? We would like to get together for a meeting about some of the things that have come up in the hearings.

**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Dorothy Wilson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Thank you

*Dorothy P. Wilson  
OSCA - Office of Budget Services  
500 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900  
(850) 488-3735 / (850) 487-0664 Fax*

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:37 PM  
**To:** Dorothy Wilson  
**Cc:** Grant Slayden; Sondra Lanier; Mark Weinberg; Ted McFetridge; Matthew Benefiel; Carol Ortman; Richard Callanan  
**Subject:** Re: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

No adjustments to the 13th circuit's plan are necessary.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 26, 2010, at 3:54 PM, "Dorothy Wilson" [REDACTED]@org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Just checking on the status of the exercise below? Thanks

---

**From:** Kristine Slayden  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Trial Court Chief Judges; Trial Court Administrators  
**Cc:** Trial Court Budget Commission; Lisa Goodner; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Gary Phillips; Theresa Westerfield; Heather Thuotte-Pierson; Kristine Slayden; Sharon Bosley; Sharon Buckingham  
**Subject:** Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Chief Judges/Trial Court Administrators – The Trial Court Budget Commission met yesterday and approved the following 5 issues for the implementation of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding for FY 2010/11. Any adjustments to your circuit's plan based on these decisions need to be emailed to Dorothy Wilson at [REDACTED] by COB Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the bottom of this email for further submission instructions.

Please note that the allocations will be provided to the Chief Justice and the Legislature for final approval.

## Issue 1: FY 2010/11 Funding Allocations Approved

- 1) Approved the FY 2010/11 circuit allocations for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding, with an adjustment to the contracted services category for case management and administrative support for the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> circuits (due to restrictions with using contractual dollars). The revised allocation chart is attached.
- 2) Approved effective date for the implementation of the circuits' plans so resources can be deployed on July 1, 2010, using existing FY 2009/10 funds for advertising if necessary.

## Issue 2: Types of Cases and Disposition Goals Approved

- 1) Approved real property/mortgage foreclosure cases as the focus of this initiative. If a circuit has cleared all real property/mortgage foreclosure cases from backlog, the circuit may request in writing to the TCBC Chair, with a copy to the TCBC Budget Management Committee Chair, and to the State Courts Administrator, asking to use the funds to handle contracts and indebtedness cases, and county civil cases valued from \$5,001 to \$15,000.
- 2) Approved a targeted goal for the disposition of backlog cases of 62%, which corresponds to the reduction in funding (\$9.6 million proposal reduced down to \$6.0 million appropriation is a 38% reduction).

The attached chart indicates the targeted backlog reduction for the **estimated** Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure backlog cases for each circuit. The actual number of backlog cases will need to be produced at the beginning of the initiative for tracking purposes.

## Issue 3: Budget Policy Considerations Approved

- a) In order to comply with legislative intent, any expenditure of any type utilizing this funding is strictly limited to direct support of the backlog reduction of the approved case types listed in Issue 2.
- b) In order to ensure that senior judges who are assigned to the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery initiative are paid with the appropriate funds, the current senior judge application will be modified to allow circuits to specify from which funding source the

senior judge should be paid. The Trial Court Administrators are responsible for ensuring that the information is reported properly.

- c) Expenditures from the Expense category are limited to intra-circuit travel for staff, intra- and inter-circuit travel for Senior Judges, consumable office supplies, postage, copying, printing and reproduction. To maximize the Expense allotment, circuits are encouraged to use existing resources or surplus furnishings for any office furniture needs for OPS staff and/or Senior Judges. Subscriptions and the like are not allowable expenditures for this funding, neither are computers or other communication devices as those items are a county funding responsibility.
  
- d) A contingency for the Expense category was approved in the original proposal and factored into the appropriated amount. In order to access these contingency funds, a circuit must have exhausted its Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Expense allotment. Requests for additional Expense are to be made in writing to the TCBC Chair, with a copy to the TCBC Budget Management Committee Chair, and to the State Courts Administrator. The request must provide a complete, detailed explanation of how Expense funding came to be exhausted, what steps were taken to alleviate the impending shortfall, the amount requested and how that amount was calculated.

#### **Issue 4: Funding/Plan Monitoring Approved**

- a. The Budget Management Committee (BMC) will monitor expenditures on a monthly basis to ensure that resources are only being used for the purpose of backlog reduction for the approved case types. In addition, the BMC will monitor case event data to ensure that expenditures correlate with the TCBC approved activities.
- b. The Supreme Court Inspector General will also be reviewing the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery initiative for potential inclusion in the branch's FY 2010/11 audit plan.

#### **Issue 5: Clerk Assistance Approved**

Information on in-courtroom resources (general magistrates and senior judges) that will be assigned in each county and the maximum number of courtrooms that will be scheduled at any one time in each county will be shared with clerks once it has been finalized (see attached chart – please update this information, if needed). The chief judge in each circuit should work with their clerks to ensure the clerks appropriately support their plan. These plans need to be shared with the Office of the State Courts Administrator so that the legislature can be informed of the collaborative work on this

issue. In addition, the TCBC approved the requirement that the clerks of court provide data support for this initiative.

Two other issues on performance measurement and FY 2011/12 Legislative Budget Request were postponed until the June 4<sup>th</sup> TCBC meeting.

**Directions:**

If the decisions above require you to modify your plan allocations, please make the adjustments and notify Dorothy Wilson of the specific changes to the allocation categories by email at [REDACTED] by COB, Tuesday, May 25, 2010. If no changes are needed, please indicate that in an email to Dorothy. In addition, if any changes in your allocations require a revision to the in courtroom resources, please provide that information also.

Listed below are the job classes and hourly rates for OPS positions that were used in the original proposal for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding. The TCBC approved the circuit allocations with direction to the circuits that they hire within these guidelines.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Maximum rate</u>
Magistrates: hourly	Magistrate	\$35.48
Case Management:	Court Program Specialist II	\$17.36 hourly
	Court Program Specialist I	\$14.58 hourly
– Hillsborough and Pinellas	Court Program Specialist I	\$15.40 hourly w/ CAD
– Broward, Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach	Court Program Specialist I	\$15.40 hourly w/ CAD
Admin. Support:	Senior Secretary	\$11.89 hourly
CAD – Hillsborough and Pinellas	Senior Secretary	\$12.10 hourly w/

Senior Secretary  
CAD – Broward, Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach

\$12.48 hourly w/

This amount does not include the 7.65% FICA that needs to be added to the hourly rate.

Lastly, some circuits have already developed plans and position descriptions for the implementation of this initiative. You may want to check with our colleagues if you need some assistance in developing your own plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Kris

Kris Slayden

Research and Data

Office of the State Courts Administrator

Florida Supreme Court

500 S. Duval Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

850-922-5106 (wk)

850-556-2335 (cell)

850-414-1342 (fax)

<ForeclosureandEconomicRecovery\_FundingPlans\_Updated05212010.pdf>

<Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Responses from Circuits\_May 2010\_v2.pdf>

<62% Estimated RPFM Backlog.pdf>

**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Kristine Slayden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 3:34 PM  
**To:** Trial Court Administrators  
**Subject:** Media Request: Expedited hearings in Foreclosures

**Importance:** High

TCA's: Could you please let me know if your court is using the expedited hearing process for uncontested foreclosure cases? A reporter wants to know if the majority of counties are using that process as part of the foreclosure initiative plan. Please provide a yes or no by county. Thanks! Kris

Kris Slayden  
Research and Data  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Florida Supreme Court  
500 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850-922-5106 (wk)  
850-556-2335 (cell)  
850-414-1342 (fax)

**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 4:32 PM  
**To:** Menendez, Manuel; Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: foreclosure hearings

We need to talk about this approach. I have serious concerns about our ability to do this with the limited resources we have. I would prefer to document that the case was not disposed due to attorney practice than try to set up hearings we know the attorneys will want to change the dates due to conflicts with other hearings. I think we would get more bang for our efforts by identifying cases with no activity that we can put on a dismissal docket.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800



[www.tjud13.org](http://www.tjud13.org)

---

**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike; Barton, James  
**Subject:** foreclosure hearings  
**Importance:** High

I understand that the volume of cases being set for summary judgment hearings before our senior judges are not the volume we had hoped (to-wit: only 56 cases yesterday). I suggest we immediately start scheduling foreclosure cases for trial.

*Manuel Menendez, Jr.*  
*Chief Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida*  
*800 E. Twiggs St., Suite 602, Tampa, FL 33602*  
*813-272-5022*

## Melendi, Rick

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 12:22 PM  
**To:** Valdes,Ryan; Sequeira, Maria  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th  
**Attachments:** ccwebsig2.BMP

No attachment, see response directly below.

---

**From:** DEMELJR  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

This is the only attachment?  
It is a signature graphic

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 10:33 AM  
**To:** DEMELJR  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

Jim,

Please convert attachment, so I can open same.

Thank you.

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 8:48 AM  
**To:** Sequeira, Maria  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

Maria,

Please print this email for Judge Little to review.

Thanks.

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 6:50 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** Fwd: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

Check with the senior judges scheduled for next week to see if they would like to meet with the Fanne Mae rep.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ned Pope" <[npope@collinscenter.org](mailto:npope@collinscenter.org)>  
**Date:** October 7, 2010 6:01:27 PM EDT  
**To:** "Bridenback, Mike" <[bridenml@fljud13.org](mailto:bridenml@fljud13.org)>  
**Subject:** Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

Mike,

I hope things are going well in Tampa.

Mike Hernandez, Fannie Mae VP, is making stops at different circuits to meet with judges regarding a new pre-filing foreclosure mediation program that Fannie Mae is about to engage in.

The basic premise of this process is to begin contacting delinquent borrowers at 65-75 days of delinquency with the hopes that outreach at a much earlier stage will prompt more participation in the program. Another key element of this process is the requirement that Fannie Mae is placing on the servicer to provide substantive loan modification and/or liquidation offers before mediation can begin. This way the mediation itself can be utilized to work towards a final agreement, as opposed to the "plans of action" that tend to result for the post filing program and often times get no follow-up directly from the servicer.

Other advantages to this process include: a more robust credit counseling component and document exchange, more interaction directly with the servicers on the loans, and lessening the requirements and activity of the foreclosure law firms.

As you know, the Supreme Court's recommended administrative order encourages pre-suit programs of this kind with the caveat that they substantially comply with the court's process model. Mr. Hernandez would like to review the process elements of the program with the appropriate judges in the 13th to get their input and suggestions on how to make sure they are fully compliant with the spirit of the local administrative order.

The Fannie Mae reps will be in Tampa next Wednesday and early Thursday morning if some of the civil judges, and/or the chief judge, are available. I'm happy to work with their JA's if you can point me in the right direction.

Thanks for your time, talk to you soon.

-Ned

**Ned Pope**

Vice President of Project Management and ADR Initiatives

Director, Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program

[npope@collinscenter.org](mailto:npope@collinscenter.org)

[www.collinscenter.org](http://www.collinscenter.org)

2600 Centennial Place, Suite 201

Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Office: 850-219-0082 ex.106

Fax: 850-219-0491

## Melendi, Rick

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 8:48 AM  
**To:** Valdes,Ryan  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th  
**Attachments:** ccwebsig2; ATT1351677.htm

Ryan,

Please print this email for Judge Steinberg's review.

Thank you.

---

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**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 6:50 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** Fwd: Possible Fannie Mae Meeting in the 13th

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**Date:** October 7, 2010 6:01:27 PM EDT  
**To:** "Bridenback, Mike" <[bridenml@fljud13.org](mailto:bridenml@fljud13.org)>  
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The Fannie Mae reps will be in Tampa next Wednesday and early Thursday morning if some of the civil judges, and/or the chief judge, are available. I'm happy to work with their JA's if you can point me in the right direction.

Thanks for your time, talk to you soon.

-Ned

**Ned Pope**

Vice President of Project Management and ADR Initiatives

Director, Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program

[npope@collinscenter.org](mailto:npope@collinscenter.org)

[www.collinscenter.org](http://www.collinscenter.org)

2600 Centennial Place, Suite 201

Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Office: 850-219-0082 ex.106

Fax: 850-219-0491



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts

FROM: John Laurent

DATE: October 28, 2010

SUBJECT: Foreclosure Initiative

*The Honorable  
John F. Laurent, Chair*

*The Honorable  
Margaret Steinbeck,  
Vice-Chair*

**Members**

- Catherine Brunson, Circuit Judge*
- Paul S. Bryan, Circuit Judge*
- Joseph P. Farina, Circuit Judge*
- Charles A. Francis, Circuit Judge*
- Mark Mahon, Circuit Judge*
- J. Thomas McGrady, Circuit Judge*
- Wayne M. Miller, County Judge*
- Belvin, Perry, Jr., Circuit Judge*
- Robert E. Roundtree, Jr., Circuit Judge*
- Clayton D. Simmons, Circuit Judge*
- Elijah Smiley, Circuit Judge*
- Patricia V. Thomas, Circuit Judge*
- Mike Bridenback, Court Administrator*
- Tom Genung, Court Administrator*
- Sandra Lonergan, Court Administrator*
- Carol Lee Ortman, Court Administrator*
- Wait Smith, Court Administrator*
- Mark Weinberg, Court Administrator*
- Robin Wright, Court Administrator*

**Ex-Officio Members**

- The Honorable Kevin M. Emas  
Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges*
- The Honorable Susan F. Schaeffer  
Chair Emeritus*

**Supreme Court Liaison**

*Justice James E. C. Perry*

*Florida State Courts System*

*500 South Duval Street*

*Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900*

*www.flcourts.org*

In follow up to the Judicial Administration Committee conference call held on October 18, 2010, I am writing to reiterate the Trial Court Budget Commission's purpose for tracking the progress of cases the trial courts are hearing using funding provided for the foreclosure and economic recovery initiative. When the Florida Legislature appropriated special funding of \$6 million to help the trial courts with the significant backlog of foreclosure cases, the Trial Court Budget Commission established a measurement of progress that corresponded to the funding received: 62% of the backlog cases potentially could be processed because the Legislature funded 62% of the original request from the courts. A simple case tracking system was set up to monitor the progress and identify any reasons for delays. This is so that we will be able to report to the Legislature on how these funds were used. However, the Legislature has not specifically directed us to make such a report.

The 62% rate is not a quota. The 62% rate is simply a goal set by the TCBC to help measure the courts' progress in this initiative and document how the appropriation for the foreclosure initiative is being spent. The 62% rate was set before the initiative began and, most notably, before many of the lender moratoriums and other delays occurred. Please assure judges working on this project that the 62% rate was never intended to interfere with their ability to adjudicate each case fairly on its merits.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this initiative because we have an obligation to account for how these funds have been used. But we also will document all issues related to any difficulties that prevent or delay the court from hearing and disposing of cases before them.

JL/ks

cc: TCBC Members

## Hickmon, Angelina

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 11:34 AM  
**To:** Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy; Greno, Linda; Pisacane, Elvira; Tracy, Deb  
**Subject:** FW: Revised Docket Annotations

Please note additional annotation codes below.

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 8:18 AM  
**To:** Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany  
**Cc:** Wells, Tracy; Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** Docket Annotations

Good Morning,

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No Packet: Annotation: I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage and Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

Conciliation: Annotation = MSN (Mediation/Settlement Negotiations)

Loss Mitigation: Annotation = MSN (Mediation/Settlement Negotiations)

Forbearance: Annotation = MSN (Mediation/Settlement Negotiations)

This annotation document/cheat sheet is a work in progress and subject to further modification as we come across other annotations that are not clear for purposes of data entry.

## Hickmon,Angelina

---

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Moreno,Elisa; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Subject:** FW: Tentative Meeting w/ Clerk's office

The meeting with the clerk's office today @ 3:30 has been confirmed. The meeting will take place in Judge Barton's hearing room (512).

See you then.

**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2010 4:46 PM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Moreno,Elisa; Hickmon,Angelina; Gammage,Trillany; Schatzberg,Beth  
**Subject:** Tentative Meeting w/ Clerk's office

A tentative meeting with the clerk's office has been scheduled for tomorrow – 8/20/10 @ 3:30. Once I confirm the meeting in the a.m. tomorrow, I will send you an email confirming the time and location. The clerk wishes to discuss the issues that both our respective offices may have up to this point in the project.

## Valdes,Ryan

---

**From:** Barton, James  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2010 9:59 AM  
**To:** CIRCCIVJUD; Wolfe, Mark  
**Cc:** CIRCCIVJA; Julian, Donna M.; Snavely Carla  
**Subject:** foreclosure procedures

By way of clarification, the senior judges sitting in the foreclosure sections have been advised to refer back to the assigned circuit civil division any foreclosure case which needs to be set for trial or requires an extended hearing (15 minutes or longer) on a motion. The senior judges also have been told to review and rule on all emergency motions unless the emergency motion requires an extended hearing.

## Schatzberg,Beth

---

**From:** Greno, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 1:47 PM  
**To:** Schatzberg,Beth  
**Subject:** RE: pro-se

The procedure is to get the court file for the judge to review the motion. If after review, the judge determines that a hearing should be schedule, an Order Setting Hearing needs to be prepared the Section.

---

**From:** Schatzberg,Beth  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 12:45 PM  
**To:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** pro-se

Linda-

What did you say yesterday about communicating with Pro-se's to coordinate motions to be heard or not?

Beth

**Moreno,Elisa**

---

**From:** Hickmon,Angelina  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2010 1:01 PM  
**To:** Wells, Tracy; Schatzberg,Beth; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan; Gammage,Trillany; Moreno,Elisa  
**Cc:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Hearings

We have been doing fine so far. There may have been 1 or 2 hiccups but nothing we can't handle.

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2010 10:45 AM  
**To:** Schatzberg,Beth; Hickmon,Angelina; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes,Ryan; Gammage,Trillany  
**Cc:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** Hearings

For your information,

I am going to sit in the courtroom on Monday and Tuesday (Sections I & II ) to observe to see if it is necessary to have to telecommute via- e-mail during hearings.

T.

**Wells, Tracy**

---

**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2010 4:52 PM  
**To:** Greno, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: MEETING WITH CLERK'S STAFF

**ATTENTION:**

We have a meeting scheduled for Friday, July 23<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Jury Auditorium, Courthouse Edgecomb, **Room 201**. This meeting is a meet and greet so that you can put a face to the names of the people that we work with in the Clerk's Office.

Please be prompt for the meeting.

T

## Bridenback, Mike

---

**From:** Menendez, Manuel  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 2:49 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11  
**Attachments:** ForeclosureandEconomicRecovery\_FundingPlans\_Updated05212010.pdf; Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Responses from Circuits\_May 2010\_v2.pdf; 62% Estimated RPF Backlog.pdf

Any impact on our plan?

---

**From:** Kristine Slayden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Trial Court Chief Judges; Trial Court Administrators  
**Cc:** Trial Court Budget Commission; Lisa Goodner; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Gary Phillips; Theresa Westerfield; Heather Thuotte-Pierson; Kristine Slayden; Sharon Bosley; Sharon Buckingham  
**Subject:** Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Chief Judges/Trial Court Administrators – The Trial Court Budget Commission met yesterday and approved the following 5 issues for the implementation of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding for FY 2010/11. Any adjustments to your circuit's plan based on these decisions need to be emailed to Dorothy Wilson at [REDACTED] by COB Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the bottom of this email for further submission instructions.

Please note that the allocations will be provided to the Chief Justice and the Legislature for final approval.

### Issue 1: FY 2010/11 Funding Allocations Approved

- 1) Approved the FY 2010/11 circuit allocations for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding, with an adjustment to the contracted services category for case management and administrative support for the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> circuits (due to restrictions with using contractual dollars). The revised allocation chart is attached.
- 2) Approved effective date for the implementation of the circuits' plans so resources can be deployed on July 1, 2010, using existing FY 2009/10 funds for advertising if necessary.

### Issue 2: Types of Cases and Disposition Goals Approved

- 1) Approved real property/mortgage foreclosure cases as the focus of this initiative. If a circuit has cleared all real property/mortgage foreclosure cases from backlog, the circuit may request in writing to the TCBC Chair, with a copy to the TCBC Budget Management Committee Chair, and to the State Courts Administrator, asking to use the funds to handle contracts and indebtedness cases, and county civil cases valued from \$5,001 to \$15,000.
- 2) Approved a targeted goal for the disposition of backlog cases of 62%, which corresponds to the reduction in funding (\$9.6 million proposal reduced down to \$6.0 million appropriation is a 38% reduction).

The attached chart indicates the targeted backlog reduction for the **estimated** Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure backlog cases for each circuit. The actual number of backlog cases will need to be produced at the beginning of the initiative for tracking purposes.

### Issue 3: Budget Policy Considerations Approved

- a) In order to comply with legislative intent, any expenditure of any type utilizing this funding is strictly limited to direct support of the backlog reduction of the approved case types listed in Issue 2.

- b) In order to ensure that senior judges who are assigned to the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery initiative are paid with the appropriate funds, the current senior judge application will be modified to allow circuits to specify from which funding source the senior judge should be paid. The Trial Court Administrators are responsible for ensuring that the information is reported properly.
- c) Expenditures from the Expense category are limited to intra-circuit travel for staff, intra- and inter-circuit travel for Senior Judges, consumable office supplies, postage, copying, printing and reproduction. To maximize the Expense allotment, circuits are encouraged to use existing resources or surplus furnishings for any office furniture needs for OPS staff and/or Senior Judges. Subscriptions and the like are not allowable expenditures for this funding, neither are computers or other communication devices as those items are a county funding responsibility.
- d) A contingency for the Expense category was approved in the original proposal and factored into the appropriated amount. In order to access these contingency funds, a circuit must have exhausted its Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Expense allotment. Requests for additional Expense are to be made in writing to the TCBC Chair, with a copy to the TCBC Budget Management Committee Chair, and to the State Courts Administrator. The request must provide a complete, detailed explanation of how Expense funding came to be exhausted, what steps were taken to alleviate the impending shortfall, the amount requested and how that amount was calculated.

#### **Issue 4: Funding/Plan Monitoring Approved**

- a. The Budget Management Committee (BMC) will monitor expenditures on a monthly basis to ensure that resources are only being used for the purpose of backlog reduction for the approved case types. In addition, the BMC will monitor case event data to ensure that expenditures correlate with the TCBC approved activities.
- b. The Supreme Court Inspector General will also be reviewing the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery initiative for potential inclusion in the branch's FY 2010/11 audit plan.

#### **Issue 5: Clerk Assistance Approved**

Information on in-courtroom resources (general magistrates and senior judges) that will be assigned in each county and the maximum number of courtrooms that will be scheduled at any one time in each county will be shared with clerks once it has been finalized (see attached chart – please update this information, if needed). The chief judge in each circuit should work with their clerks to ensure the clerks appropriately support their plan. These plans need to be shared with the Office of the State Courts Administrator so that the legislature can be informed of the collaborative work on this issue. In addition, the TCBC approved the requirement that the clerks of court provide data support for this initiative.

Two other issues on performance measurement and FY 2011/12 Legislative Budget Request were postponed until the June 4<sup>th</sup> TCBC meeting.

#### **Directions:**

If the decisions above require you to modify your plan allocations, please make the adjustments and notify Dorothy Wilson of the specific changes to the allocation categories by email at [REDACTED] by COB, Tuesday, May 25, 2010. If no changes are needed, please indicate that in an email to Dorothy. In addition, if any changes in your allocations require a revision to the in courtroom resources, please provide that information also.

Listed below are the job classes and hourly rates for OPS positions that were used in the original proposal for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding. The TCBC approved the circuit allocations with direction to the circuits that they hire within these guidelines.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Maximum rate</u>
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	Court Program Specialist I	\$15.40 hourly w/ CAD – Hillsborough and Pinellas
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Palm Beach		
Admin. Support:	Senior Secretary	\$11.89 hourly
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Palm Beach		

This amount does not include the 7.65% FICA that needs to be added to the hourly rate.

Lastly, some circuits have already developed plans and position descriptions for the implementation of this initiative. You may want to check with our colleagues if you need some assistance in developing your own plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Kris

Kris Slayden  
 Research and Data  
 Office of the State Courts Administrator  
 Florida Supreme Court  
 500 S. Duval Street  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
 850-922-5106 (wk)  
 850-556-2335 (cell)  
 850-414-1342 (fax)

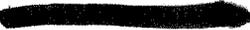
**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:47 AM  
**To:** Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Yes, I contacted him about my error.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
f: 813.301.3800  
  
[www.fjud13.org](http://www.fjud13.org)



---

**From:** Barton, James  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:45 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Does Rick know?

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:38 AM  
**To:** Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

The extra word not was a senior moment typo.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** Barton, James  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:11 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Shouldn't we start lining up the senior judges now? I'm ready to start using them July 1.

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Barton, James ; Melendi, Rick  
**Cc:** Thullbery, Heather  
**Subject:** FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Our plan was approved. We can proceed with recruitment of the 4 court Program Specialist II's and 2 senior secretaries. Rick, you should not try to get commitments from senior judges. When we hear from the clerk about their resources, we will need to escalate our plans to get this program in place by July 1.

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---

**From:** Kristine Slayden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Trial Court Chief Judges; Trial Court Administrators  
**Cc:** Trial Court Budget Commission; Lisa Goodner; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Gary Phillips; Theresa Westerfield; Heather Thuotte-Pierson; Kristine Slayden; Sharon Bosley; Sharon Buckingham  
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**Bridenback, Mike**

---

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**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:46 AM  
**To:** Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

I cannot. I have a TCBC meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel on Kennedy.

\*\*\*\*\*

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---

**From:** Barton, James  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:44 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Great. Can you come to our noon June 3 circuit civil meeting at Mis en Place?

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 9:35 AM  
**To:** Barton, James  
**Subject:** RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

We are

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Bridenback, Mike**

---

**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 3:50 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** RE: Shannon Bank w/Tampa Tribune

Any info yet?

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
Court Administrator  
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604  
Tampa, FL 33602  
p: 813.272.5894  
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**From:** Melendi, Rick  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 2:07 PM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Shannon Bank w/Tampa Tribune

Sent email to case managers before requesting info. by 3:30 today.

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**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 12:08 PM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick  
**Subject:** FW: Shannon Bank w/Tampa Tribune

Get me whatever data you can muster before 4 pm today.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael L. Bridenback*  
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**From:** Wells, Tracy  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2010 11:55 AM  
**To:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** Shannon Bank w/Tampa Tribune

Mike,

Shannon Bank with the Tampa Tribune called and wants to know the number of foreclosures postponed or canceled this week due to the moratorium nationwide. Her phone number is 259-7804.

I mentioned this to Rick as he passed by and he said that he could come up with a figure for her from the dockets by the end of the day.

T.

Letter to Lisa Goodner

**DRAFT**

Dear Lisa:

In response to the reference in the letter to the Chief Justice from the Florida Press Association that "...[a] court observer in Hillsborough County called the court to ask about the rules governing attendance at foreclosure proceedings and was told that the proceedings were not open to the public", I directed Judge James Barton, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil Division and Mike Bridenback, the court administrator, to conduct an inquiry to determine the validity of this allegation. It is difficult to investigate such an allegation that does not provide any specifics as to who the "court observer" is that made the call or who the person talked to that he or she references as the "court".

There are multiple entities that a person may call. These include a judicial assistant for a judge, a judge, the court administrator and its various departments, the clerk of court and its various departments or the sheriff's court security and operations unit. Judge Barton contacted each of the judicial assistants and judges who routinely handle mortgage foreclosure cases and did not find one person who recalls accepting a call where the question was are the foreclosure proceedings open to the public. The individuals questioned by Judge Barton about this issue confirm that they understand that foreclosure hearings are open to the public and indicated that they would not have told anyone that the hearings are closed.

Mr. Bridenback contacted the clerk of court's chief deputy for court operations who oversees the departments that support the handling of mortgage foreclosure cases and requested that she inquire with her staff to determine if anyone received a call requesting information about whether the foreclosure proceedings are open to the public. The chief deputy reported back to Mr. Bridenback that no one remembers fielding such a call. She also confirmed that staff acknowledged an understanding that foreclosure proceedings are open to the public and would not indicate otherwise to any individual who may ask such a question.

Now, there was an incident where a reporter for the New York Times came to the front desk of the clerk's circuit civil department and asked where the foreclosure dockets were being held. The clerk who responded did indicate that the hearing room was attached to judges' chambers which entry is restricted. This means that in order to get to the hearing room, the bailiff or the judicial assistant must permit entry. This procedure has been in place since the Edgecomb Courthouse was opened in 2003. Most of the hearings in the circuit civil division occur in hearing rooms not courtrooms. These hearing rooms are attached to judges' chambers. For obvious security reasons, any

**13TH CIR 00586**

attorney, litigant or even court staff must request entry. No one has unfettered access to the area where judges are located in this courthouse. But, all who request entry who have business before the court or who may just wish to observe are granted access.

It is my understanding that the reporter may have interpreted this restrictive process as a barrier to observe the proceedings. The reporter expressed concern about this to Mr. Bridenback who attempted to explain the procedures and that they were not intended to deny access to a public court proceeding. The result was that the reporter was given access and was able to observe the proceedings.

Mr. Bridenback also talked with each of the court staff who supports the mortgage foreclosure project. This included the chief of court operations, chief administrative assistant to the court administrator, the central receptionist who handles all calls coming into the court administrator's office, the case managers and secretaries assigned to the foreclosure project. Again, no one recalls receiving a call regarding whether the foreclosure proceedings are open or not. All confirmed that they understood that these proceedings are open and stated that they would not have ever said otherwise to anyone who may inquire either in person or on the telephone.

The case managers and secretaries are on the front lines of this project. They have a lot of contact with attorneys and litigants. Some did indicate that they have heard complaints about the security restrictions for entry into the hearing room from attorneys and litigants. Also, the hearing room is small and because of the volume of cases, there are occasions when not all individuals can actually get into the hearing room. Chairs are lined up along the hallway leading into the hearing room where the overflow sometimes has to sit awaiting their hearing. This is a practical reality that does exist particularly on Fridays when all motions are heard. We are in the process of relocating the hearings to a larger courtroom that permit easier access and accommodate more people. We hope to have this new courtroom operational by the end of the year.

The bailiffs who support the foreclosure proceedings were also contacted. They fully understand the policy of foreclosure proceedings being open to the public. The sheriff has a comprehensive education and training program that addresses proper protocols for officers to address issues such as this. They too do not recall receiving a call concerning whether the proceedings are public or not. They also have the responsibility for the security of judges, court staff, attorney, litigants and the public. The exercise of this responsibility sometimes requires the officer to be forceful in carrying out this important task. The bailiffs did report that they have met resistance on occasion from attorneys and litigants when they are exercising their discretion to maintain security for all who enter the courthouse and could understand where their actions could be misconstrued.

The possible source for this allegation may be Matt Weidner, attorney who publishes a Blog on the internet (mattweidnerlaw.com). In a recent blog on September 24, 2010, Mr. Weidner states that “across this state, oftentimes in secret courtrooms that are hidden from the public using evidence and information that is hidden from the scrutiny of press or public view, judges will be signing thousands of foreclosure judgments. I was in one of those secret Kafka-esque courtrooms in Tampa yesterday...”

Of course, like any other Blog, this is Mr. Weidner's opinion. He may believe this to be true but I do not share his opinion and a reasonable analysis of the foreclosure process in place in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit would reveal nothing could be further from the truth. We would welcome an independent review of our process.

Once again, due to the lack of access to a traditional courtroom, foreclosure proceedings in one of the two foreclosure sections in our circuit are being held in a hearing room that is located adjacent to judges' chambers in an area where entry is screened for security reasons. I acknowledge that it is not a courtroom that someone can access through a public lobby. Because of the volume of cases, there may be situations where bailiffs in carrying out their prescribed duties, find it necessary to delay access for safety or security reasons. No one has ever been denied access to these proceedings. I can also assure you that the judges hearing these cases are very experience judges who are reviewing each case on its merits and making a judgment based on the facts and law in the case. The real difference between how these cases were handled prior to the project and now are that we had 10 judges conducting foreclosure dockets with no case management support prior to the implementation of this project. We now have 2 judges handling all foreclosure cases with case management support.

Our case managers review every case calendared to determine whether all required documents are properly filed and ready for consideration by the court. Hundreds of cases have been pulled from the calendar due to lack of insufficient pleadings. The case managers are in the hearing and record all actions taken by the judge. The cases are set in 30 minute blocks of time with no more than 15 cases schedule per time block. We use an automated system where the attorneys schedule their cases on a web-based calendaring system. An attorney must certify that the case is ready for final resolution before it can be calendared. Notice to all parties is provided through this automated calendaring system.

Most of the hearings are conducted telephonically. Summary Judgment hearings are held Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm. Cases are calendared on two dockets each handled simultaneously by a senior judge. We have a pool of 6 senior judges who are assigned for a two week period. On Fridays of each week, non-dispositive motion hearings are held between 9 am and 5 pm. Beginning in December,

we are also conducting case management conferences for those cases that have not been calendared for summary judgment hearing. The purpose of these hearings is to determine why the case is not moving toward disposition and to set these cases for trial.

Please do not hesitate for you have questions or need additional information.

## **Bridenback, Mike**

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**From:** Callanan, Richard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 6:05 PM  
**To:** 'P.J. Stockdale'  
**Cc:** Fishbeck, Eric; 'Kristine Slayden'; 'Arlene Johnson'; Bridenback, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ,

I definitely agree with Mike's idea to limit the case type categories.

We have spent a lot of time with local staff, reviewing these codes and reporting elements, and our biggest problem is the large number of status codes and difficulty in capturing the status code changes. We have some ideas on simplifying the "status codes", since this is the real key to the tracking report. It is also the most difficult to capture since the clerk in the courtroom is the only real-time way to get the status changes and the clerks systems do not capture them in any detailed way.

Anyway, here is our suggestion, and Eric Fishbeck will be calling you to discuss in more detail:

1. Reduce the status codes from nine to four categories: (1) Active, (2) Stayed -Bankruptcy/Other, (3) Inactivity by Attorney/Abatement or (4) Closed. . Most clerks systems can report on at least 3 of these 4 status codes, and with a possible extract report from the clerks system that notes "last event" and "date of last event" staff may be able to research and determine if there was an order staying/inactivating the case. With fewer codes, staff may be able to work with clerks to get these type of extract reports. Frankly, clerks in small counties will a lot of difficulty capturing any data beyond active/inactive/closed.
2. Limit the "Event" reporting to ONLY the "Last Event" , "Date of Last Event" and Status Code otherwise this gets way to cumbersome. Don't try to capture all events and dates of status change through this report. If we want interim time and event analysis , we can do that with sampling.

Eric will be calling with some other thoughts and to discuss in detail..

Thanks again for the chance to comment.

Rick

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**From:** P.J. Stockdale [REDACTED] [mailto:stockdale@courts.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale; Callanan, Richard  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

Rick,

Just wanted to follow up on your thoughts for the foreclosure case tracking application. Mike has suggested reducing the SRS case types to one single type "Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure" as there isn't any real need to break it out further. It seems clear from the ongoing discussion up here that the primary purpose of this reporting application is to capture some solid activity data about foreclosure cases rather than disposition data on specific case types so I am very interested in your take on the status values. The challenge is to define case

status changes that are broad enough that it is practical to capture the data while making them specific enough to describe the evolution of the case. We've had some good input from Mike and Judge Bailey in this area.

I apologize for rushing a little but we are trying to lock down the details so that we can present to the Court Statistics and Workload Committee on Monday. I look forward to hearing from you.

PJ

PJ Stockdale  
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OSCA - Court Services  
Supreme Court Building Annex  
500 S Duval St  
Tallahassee FL 32301-1900  
(ph) 850.410.1523  
(fax) 850.414.1342

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**From:** P.J. Stockdale  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 3:56 PM  
**To:** Richard Callanan; Mike Bridenback  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

Rick,

Thanks for the quick response. The clerks in each county will be providing OSCA with a base list of pending foreclosure cases outstanding as of June 30, 2010. The OSCA will preload a set of workbooks for each circuit. Assuming the Court Statistics and Workload Committee signs off on the data plan, we expect to have the working data out to the circuits by 7/16.

I understand what you are saying, Rick. It is something we struggled with as we put this together. Coming up with something that will help those circuits that need it without hobbling the operations of other circuits has been quite a challenge. Of course, that is why we sent the workbooks out to you. Now is a good time for some feedback and discussion.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks again  
PJ

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OSCA - Court Services  
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(fax) 850.414.1342

**From:** Callanan, Richard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 3:10 PM  
**To:** P.J. Stockdale; Mike Bridenback  
**Cc:** Kristine Slayden; Arlene Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: ECONRECOV: Prototype of Foreclosure Case Tracking System

PJ

Thank you for the chance to review and comment. Will the clerks or osca be providing the base list/excel file of pending cases? I am reviewing this with my IT, statistical reporting and civil folks and will get you comments next week.

As I mentioned to you, I understand the need for case status tracking to identify delayed cases and we have local MIS pending case reports from most clerks already to help track and move cases. I don't think having a case manager data enter this manually for 59000 cases is the best way to do this on case by case basis. That said we are looking at ways to pull the majority of these status codes from clerk database and will

20th Circuit - Integrity, Fairness, Service

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On Jul 1, 2010 2:24 PM, P.J. Stockdale [REDACTED] wrote:

Mike, Rick,

Please find attached a copy of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System (fercts\_devel\_v10-8-1a.xls). We know it isn't a complete solution but I guess the first question we have is whether this application is workable to capture this data. The idea was to find some balance between the needs of small and large circuits. I would be most appreciative to hear your suggestions on how we might make this application more usable for the initiative staff. There are still a few minor bugs that we are working out but all the major components work. In order to meet our deadline to get the workbooks out to the circuits by 7/16, I will need to finalize the application by next Friday (7/9)

I've also attached a draft summary which contains a brief overview of the application and a list of the data captured along with their definitions. Mostly we used the standard SRS definitions. However, there are two fields, case status and reopen closed date that do not have SRS definitions. We have proposed a definition for these fields that we believe to be consistent with SRS that should help initiative staff complete the workbooks. Please take a look at these, particularly the one for reopen closed date. Does this seem to be a workable definition for this project?

Since this tracking application is based upon VBA macros, there are a few steps that need to be taken to get it installed and running. I've attached a set of installations instructions but you may want to have one of your IT people set it up. Please have your IT folks give me a call, if needed, and I'll go through it with them.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

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## Melendi, Rick

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**From:** Bridenback, Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 10:51 AM  
**To:** Melendi, Rick; Noll, Sharon; Wells, Tracy  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cir13: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System  
**Attachments:** 13\_29Hillsborough\_FERCTS.xls; ATT282842.htm; FERCTS\_Installation\_Guide.pdf; ATT282843.htm; FERCTS\_Users\_Guide.pdf; ATT282844.htm

Please review and let' meet on Thursday to plan implementation

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "P.J. Stockdale" <[stockdap@flcourts.org](mailto:stockdap@flcourts.org)>  
**To:** "Bridenback, Mike" <[bridenml@fljud13.org](mailto:bridenml@fljud13.org)>  
**Subject:** Cir13: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System

Mike,

Please find attached the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System (FERCTS) workbook for each county in your circuit. These workbooks have been pre-loaded with all non-disposed, reopened and pending cases as of June 30, 2010 as provided by the Clerks of Court for that county. We apologize for the delay in completing these workbooks for you. Since the Foreclosure Initiative began July 1, 2010, please update these workbooks to include all initiative activity beginning on July 1, 2010. Please email a copy of these workbooks to the OSCA on the 10th of each month. Since we are late getting this to you and there is probably a lot of work being done initially, we are going to skip the first reporting cycle and ask that you provide your first submission on September 10, 2010. Please see the attached FERCTS Users Guide for more information.

Since this tracking application is based upon VBA macros, there are a few steps that need to be taken to get it installed and running. I've attached a set of installations instructions to this email. However, each circuit has established different security procedures that could affect installation. You may want to have one of your IT people set the application up to ensure it works properly. Please have your IT folks give me a call, if needed, and I'll go through it with them. Please note that if you only see a spreadsheet and not a data entry screen, the application may not have installed properly.

Please do not hesitate to contact Court Services, Kris Slayden ([slaydenk@flcourts.org](mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org)), or PJ Stockdale ([stockdap@flcourts.org](mailto:stockdap@flcourts.org)) if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Thanks

PJ

PJ Stockdale

Senior Court Statistics Consultant

OSCA - Court Services

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**Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability  
Court Statistics and Workload Committee**

**Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Initiative - Case Reporting System**

**Background:**

The backlog of real property/mortgage foreclosure cases has been accumulating for more than three years. The intent of the legislature in funding this initiative is to reduce the backlog currently in the court system to get properties on the market in order to stimulate the economy.

On May 20, 2010, the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) approved the FY 2010/11 circuit allocations for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding and approved the effective date for the implementation of the circuits' plans so resources can be deployed on July 1, 2010.

On June 4, 2010, the TCBC requested the Court Statistics and Workload Committee to 1) oversee and approve the development of a case reporting system for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery initiative; and 2) monitor the results from the data capture in the case reporting system.

**Discussion:**

There are two distinct measurements relevant to this initiative. The first measure was provided by the TCBC as the goal for this project.

**Measurement #1:**

- ❖ Dispose 62% of all backlogged Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure cases (non-disposed and reopened) in FY 2010-11. This measure will be evaluated at the end of the initiative period using the same methodology as used initially to describe the project to the legislature. This methodology uses the official SRS filing and disposition statistics to calculate backlog.

**Measurement #2:**

The second measurement will provide case specific information during the initiative period. It will allow the courts to generally describe how and why cases are moving or failing to move through the system. Specifically, this second measurement will identify:

- The average age of target cases
- The status of target cases

This measurement effort will need to be collected as a separate reporting requirement as this data is not captured in SRS. To facilitate this case tracking and reporting effort, Court Services is developing a tracking application and each clerk of court will be providing a list of backlogged cases as of close of business June 30, 2010, which will be used to pre-populate the case tracking application for each county in each circuit.

Since this is a temporary project (12 months), data reporting should be self-contained and targeted to the specific project goals. Consequently, it is recommended that, for the duration of

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Court Statistics and Workload Committee**

this short term project, a new data reporting mechanism, the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Case Tracking System (FERCTS), be developed to capture the data required for this project. For simplicity and ease of use, this system should collect only the data required for the successful tracking for program goals as listed below. FERCTS is not intended to provide case management capabilities. Instead, this application will provide a mechanism to capture and report, to the OSCA, specific and limited case information. This information will then be used as part of the final report to the Legislature describing the outcomes of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Initiative.

It is anticipated that a portion of the resources funded for the initiative will be used for this data reporting endeavor. There could be an extensive amount of workload associated with the data reporting system. Nevertheless, this information is essential in summarizing the effort of the courts' in reducing the real property/mortgage foreclosure backlog.

In support of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding project, the following data reporting plan is proposed.

**Data Reporting Plan**

Case data required to achieve project goals include the following:

- Circuit
- County
- Uniform Case Number
- Filing Date – initial document stamp date as per the SRS Manual (January 2002)
- SRS Case Category – ‘Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure’ (see Issue 2 below)
- Date of Case Status Change – captures the date case status changed from one category to another (See Issue 2 below)
- Current Case Status – captures data on the status of a case in broad categories (see Issue 2 below).
- Date of Disposition – As per the SRS Manual, report cases as disposed after the final judicial decision which terminates a civil proceeding by a summary/final judgment or ordered entered by the court.
- Disposition Type – Summary/Final Judgment, Trial, and Dismissed (see Issue 2 below)
- Date of Reopen Event – Report the date that a post-judgment motion is filed and the \$50 fee is paid. It is not the intent of this tracking application to capture every reopen event.
- Date Reopen Event Closed – Report the date on which the reopened case is closed after the motion which reopened the case has been resolved by judicial decision/order which completes court proceedings on the issue raised by the motion.(ex. Motion to reschedule foreclosure sale, Order rescheduling sale; See Issue 3 below)

**Application:**

It is expected that this project will involve a large number of case records (over 400,000) distributed over 67 counties. The maximum expected for a single county is approximately

**Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability  
Court Statistics and Workload Committee**

65,000. The data entry application must balance ease of development and use and ready availability to all personnel who will use it. Among the several alternatives considered, it was determined that a Microsoft Office application best meets the initiative requirements. Therefore, it is recommended that the data reporting mechanism be developed as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet application providing basic data entry and case tracking functionality for initiative related data elements. The application will be developed in such a manner that the full sort, filter and related capabilities of Excel will be available to assist staff in updating case information as well as provide a basic user interface to simplify routine case information updating.

The OSCA will divide the cases by circuit and county and initially populate the FERCTS workbooks for each trial court administrator with the pending case data provided by the clerks. The OSCA will transmit the data reporting workbooks to each trial court administrator. Cases transferred into the initiative after July 1, 2010 will have to be entered manually by court administration staff. Court administration will provide an updated copy of these tracking workbooks to the OSCA bi-weekly for monitoring, analysis and reporting.

Issue 1: Workload

OSCA staff is very sensitive to the additional workload any reporting mechanism will impose on initiative staff. Staff has also extensively considered the practicality of collecting certain data elements. Throughout the development process, staff has attempted to balance the need for and value of information to report to the legislature against the workload necessary to capture it. However, the workload involved could be significant for some circuits. This committee needs to decide if the need for results justifies the workload required.

Issue 2: Case Type and Status Reporting:

In an effort to reduce the administrative burden on initiative staff, staff has identified two data elements that can benefit from category reduction. There are thirteen SRS case types describing foreclosure cases. However, most of these groups are designed to capture information related to filing fees and other legislative issues and are not relevant to the processing of cases in this initiative. Similarly, the eleven disposition types also provide more detail than is relevant. Consequently, staff recommends that for purposes of this initiative, the thirteen SRS cases types be reduced to one case type "Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure" and the eleven disposition categories be consolidated to three categories, Summary/Final Judgment, Trial, and Dismissed.

Case status is a more difficult proposition. Since the primary purpose of the tracking application is to identify why cases are not moving through the system, case status is, arguably, the most important field. The question boils down to what types of status are necessary to adequately describe case activity. Staff has discussed this with various court administration staff and judges and has distilled their suggestions into three options each containing more or less status categories based on consideration of workload and information value:

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Option 1:

- Active
- Stayed – Bankruptcy
- Stayed - Pending resolution of another case
- Stayed - by Agreement of the parties
- Stayed - Appeal pending
- Inactivity or Pending - Attorney inactivity
- Inactivity or Pending - Insufficient pleadings or documentation
- Inactivity or Pending - Other (see comments)

Option 2:

- Active
- Stayed – Bankruptcy
- Stayed - Pending resolution of another case
- Stayed - by Agreement of the parties
- Stayed - Appeal pending
- Inactivity or Pending - Attorney inactivity
- Inactivity or Pending - Insufficient pleadings or documentation
- Inactivity or Pending - Other (see comments)
- Inactivity or Pending – Loss mitigation review
- Inactivity or Pending – Mediation/Settlement negotiations

Option 3:

- Active
- Stayed – Bankruptcy/Other
- Inactivity by Attorney /Abatement
- Closed

In order to more accurately track the case activity of this initiative, staff recommends applying an default status of “Inactivity or Pending – Other (see comments)” (if options 1 or 2 are selected) to each case provided by the clerk of courts since, by direction, clerks are supplying a list of all pending cases. This initial designation will allow the court administration to identify cases when they become active or have some other status changes. The committee may wish to add an appropriate “Inactive – Other” status to option 3.

Also, in light of the potential workload involved, it is not the intent of this application to capture every reopen or status change event. Rather, the bi-weekly submission will provide a point-in-time snapshot of case status which will allow a reasonable picture of court activity over the course of the initiative.

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Issue 3: Definition of Reopen Closed Event

There are two data fields in this application that are not specifically defined by SRS instructions, date reopen closed and case status. However, both are important in identifying the reasons why cases are not moving to final sale. It seems that case status should be something that case managers will be able determine fairly easily since it involves long term changes to case status. On the other hand, reopen closed dates may be more difficult. There isn't a specific definition or criteria in SRS that directs when a reopened case is closed and Judge Bailey and Rick Callanan has suggested that case managers may not know when a reopened case is closed.

We have put together a definition that is consistent with SRS as follows:

*Date of Reopen Event – Report the date that a post-judgment motion is filed and the \$50 fee is paid*

*Date of Reopen Event Closed – Report the date on which the reopened case is closed after the motion which reopened the case has been resolved by judicial decision/order which completes court proceedings on the issue raised by the motion. (ex. Motion to reschedule foreclosure sale, Order rescheduling sale)*

**Decisions Needed:**

1. Determine if the workload associated with the case reporting system is justified for reporting information to the legislature.
2. Approve the collapse of SRS case categories to one general category 'Real Property/Mortgage Foreclosure'
3. Approve the collapse of SRS disposition types to three general categories, Summary/Final Judgment, Trial, and Dismissed
4. Select Option 1, 2 or 3 for case status reporting.
5. Approve the option to set all case status' initially to "Inactivity or Pending – Other"
6. Approve the definition of reopen case closure as it applies to the Foreclosure initiative only.