

**STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE LOUISIANA
SUPREME COURT**

2015-2019

Adopted

February 2015

The Strategic Plan of the Supreme Court 2015-2019

Mission Statement

To provide effective and efficient administration of justice in the Supreme Court and to ensure proper administration and performance of all courts under its authority, to promote access to justice, to increase public confidence in the court system, and to ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench and bar.

I. Promote physical, economic, and procedural access to the courts

- A. Increase access to court information using technology
 1. Expand electronic access to court documents and data with appropriate protections for security and privacy
 2. Expand e-filing capability
 3. Provide an electronic system to notify parties, the public, and practitioners of filings and upcoming court dates
 4. Update court filing rules, as needed, to allow for electronic expansion
- B. Promote enhanced services for self-represented litigants and those with special needs, such as individuals with disabilities or Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
 1. Utilize website to provide information and resources for self-represented litigants
 2. Collaborate with LSBA and legal services agencies to develop strategies to expand legal and other self-help services
 3. Expand the Supreme Court interpreter program list of registered and certified interpreters through orientations, skills classes and testing, and expand access to qualified interpreters nationwide.
- C. Develop a plan to ensure that Court services are economically accessible
 1. Initiate a study of fees and costs statewide
 2. Develop a comprehensive database of current fees and costs
 3. Annually review Supreme Court fees and costs to ensure are reasonable
- D. Develop a plan to ensure that Court services are physically accessible
 1. Review ADA policies
 2. Review court security policies/ Follow-up on existing requests regarding court security committees and security assessments

II. Provide effective and efficient administration of justice (court management and governance)

- A. Efficiently and effectively manage judicial resources
 1. Improve collection of court costs and fees statewide
 - a. Carry out recommendations in legislative audit
 - b. Request all courts to review their court cost collection practices, as compared to best practices

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- c. Carry out statewide review of court costs and fees, as authorized by the Judicial Council
 - 2. Request that judicial college and other professional and judicial organizations provide education in this area
 - 3. Augment budget procedures
 - a. Implement the Travel and Expense Module in Aggresso to enhance processing of Judges' travel reimbursements
 - b. Implement commitment accounting for Court entities
 - c. Develop a rolling five-year plan
- B. Improve data gathering and analysis across all programs
 - 1. Encourage statewide adoption and use of standard data definitions
 - 2. Encourage courts to utilize CourtTools performance measures
 - 3. Leverage technology to make data gathering and analysis processes more efficient and effective
- C. Utilize technology to improve all aspects of court performance
 - 1. Implement case management system to enhance access and efficiency
 - 2. Upgrade the Court's website
- D. Continue to develop and implement methods to improve aspects of trial and appellate court performance
- E. Strengthen the Court workforce
 - 1. Implement a learning management system to provide training resources for all employees
 - 2. Continue to develop and enforce fair employment policies as required by law and by human resource management best practices
 - 3. Evaluate pay and benefits plans to ensure that the Court can maintain a sufficient number of highly qualified employees
 - 4. Evaluate and develop wellness initiatives for court staff
 - 5. Emphasize education and professional development to ensure cross-training and succession of court leaders.

III. Strengthen communication and increase public confidence in court system

- A. Enhance the public's access to court information
 - 1. Examine best practices for courts and social media, and develop a strategy for utilizing social media to better communicate with the public
 - 2. Implement a new case management to promote greater access to court records and documents
 - 3. Continue to support law library services and encourage additional services including teaching, training, and the creation of online content
 - 4. Encourage judges at all court levels to become involved in community activities and to engage their communities regarding the role and operations of the court system

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- B. Better engage the public concerning the Supreme Court's operations and activities
 1. Support community relations initiatives
 2. Revamp court website
 3. Participate in community activities and discuss the role of the Supreme Court and the judicial system whenever possible
- C. Improve communication with other branches of government and justice system stakeholders
 1. Implement new Supreme Court case management system
 2. Leverage information management systems and other technology to more efficiently and effectively share data and information among justice system stakeholders
 3. Encourage judicial ride-along programs
- D. To ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bar
 1. Develop guidelines for senior lawyers to protect public but preserve dignity of lawyers
 2. Continue to implement new lawyer mentoring program and incubator programs
 3. Support the ODC Board's initiatives regarding education and program assessment

IV. Enhance judicial competency

- A. Ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench
 1. Require regular special training or specialization for all judges who oversee at-risk populations and problem-solving courts
 2. Develop and make available to judges a 12.5 credit hour training module on enhancing the judicial response to domestic violence
 3. Through the Judicial College, expand in-person and web-based training on best judicial practices
 4. Continue to fulfill the court's constitutional duties and responsibilities in reviewing and acting on recommendations of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
 5. Continue to adequately staff the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana and the Office of Special Counsel
 6. Through the Judicial College, continue to provide training on judicial ethics
 7. Continue to administer programs designed to provide guidance and promote enhanced competence in the field of judicial ethics, such as the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics and the Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee
 8. Promote the use of technology to provide necessary information for decision-making by judges while on the bench
 9. Revise discipline system for justices of the peace
- B. Improve communication among courts at all levels
 1. Promote a more interactive "Justice at Work" report so judges may learn and communicate with other courts about their activities

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V. Enhance protections for children, families, and communities

- A. Domestic violence
 1. Continue to collect and analyze domestic violence court orders
 2. Participate in the statewide domestic violence commission created during the 2014 legislative session
 3. Continue to collaborate with other agencies such as the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault to develop statewide responses to domestic violence
- B. Juvenile justice
 1. Support implementation of recommendations from the task force on legal representation of children
 2. Re-engage with Casey Foundation on JDAI initiatives and McArthur Foundation regarding juvenile justice
 3. Promote specialized training for judges who sit regularly and ad hoc in juvenile matters
 4. Support implementation of the Court Improvement Program strategic plan by the Pelican Center for Children & Families
- C. Elder law – guardianships, elder abuse for a rapidly increasing population
 5. Collect and analyze information on the scope and impact of elder law cases in Louisiana and develop recommendations on the appropriate role of the Supreme Court in addressing this issue
- D. Human trafficking
 1. Collect and analyze information on the scope and impact of human trafficking-related cases in Louisiana and develop recommendations on the appropriate role of the Supreme Court in addressing this issue
- E. Immigration
 1. Expand the Supreme Court interpreter program list of registered and certified interpreters through orientations, skills classes and testing, and expand access to qualified interpreters nationwide.
 2. Collaborate with immigration law specialists to facilitate juvenile and family court determination of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
 3. Collect and analyze information on the scope and impact of immigration-related cases in Louisiana and develop recommendations on the appropriate role of the Supreme Court in addressing this issue.