

2002

In Profile:



The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Statutory Authority
28 U.S.C. §§ 601-612.
Congress established the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in 1939 to provide administrative support to federal courts.

Supervision

The Director of the Administrative Office carries out statutory responsibilities and other duties under the supervision and direction of the principal policy-making body of the Judiciary, the Judicial Conference of the United States, and its Executive Committee. In addition, the Conference's Committee on the Administrative Office oversees generally the agency's operations.

Responsibilities

All responsibility for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts is vested in the Director, who is the chief Administrative Officer for the federal courts. Under his direction, the agency carries out the following functions:

- Implements the policies of the Judicial Conference of the United States and supports its network of 24 com-

mittees (including advisory and special committees) by providing staff to plan meetings, develop agendas, prepare reports, and provide substantive analytical support to the development of issues, projects, and recommendations.

- Supports about 2,000 judicial officers, including active and senior appellate and district court judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges.
- Advises court administrators regarding procedural and administrative matters.
- Provides program leadership and support for circuit executives, clerks of court, staff attorneys, probation and pretrial services officers, federal defenders, circuit librarians, conference attorneys/circuit mediators, bankruptcy administrators, and other court employees.
- Provides centralized core administrative functions such as payroll, personnel, and accounting services.
- Administers the Judiciary's unique personnel systems and

monitors its fair employment practices program.

- Develops and executes the budget and provides guidance to courts for local budget execution.
- Defines resource requirements through forecasts of caseloads, work-measurement analyses, assessment of program changes, and reviews of individual court requirements.
- Provides legislative counsel and services to the Judiciary; acts as liaison with the legislative and executive branches.
- Prepares manuals and a variety of other publications.
- Collects and analyzes detailed statistics on the workload of the courts.
- Monitors and reviews the performance of programs and use of resources.
- Conducts education and training programs.

- Audits the courts' financial operations.
- Handles public affairs for the Judiciary, responding to numerous inquiries from Congress, the media, and the public.
- Develops new ways for handling court business, and provides assistance to court employees to help them implement programs and improve operations.
- Develops and supports automated systems and technologies used throughout the courts.
- Coordinates with the General Services Administration the construction and management of the Judiciary's space and facilities.
- Monitors the U.S. Marshals Service's implementation of the Judicial Facilities Security Program, including court security officers, and executes security policy for the Judiciary.



Organization

Director

Leonidas Ralph Mecham

Serves as the chief executive of the Administrative Office, Secretary to the Judicial Conference, and ex officio member of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference and a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judicial Center.

Associate Director, Management and Operations

Clarence A. Lee, Jr.

Chief advisor to the Director on management, strategic, and tactical planning and operational matters; ensures that activities of all agency elements are functioning in support of the Director's goals; oversees audit and review activities.

Associate Director and General Counsel

William R. Burchill, Jr.

Provides legal counsel and services to the Director and staff of the Administrative Office and to the Judicial Conference; responds to legal inquiries from judges and other court officials regarding court operations; represents agency in bid protests and other administrative litigation.

Judicial Conference Executive Secretariat

Karen K. Siegel, Assistant Director

Coordinates the agency's performance of the staff functions required by the Judicial Conference and its committees; maintains the official files of the Judicial Conference; and responds to judges and other court personnel regarding Conference activities.

Legislative Affairs

Michael W. Blommer, Assistant Director

Provides legislative counsel and services to the Judiciary; maintains liaison with the legislative branch; manages the coordination of

matters affecting the Judiciary with the states, legal entities, and other organizations; develops and produces judicial impact statements.

Public Affairs

David A. Sellers, Assistant Director

Carries out public information, community outreach, and communications programs for the federal Judiciary; manages publications efforts for the Administrative Office.

Court Administration and Defender Services

Noel J. Augustyn, Assistant Director

Provides support to the courts for federal defenders, clerks of court, circuit executives, court librarians, staff attorneys, conference attorneys, court reporters, and interpreters, including the development of budgets, allocation of resources, and management of national programs.

Facilities and Security

Ross Eisenman, Assistant Director

Manages services provided to the courts in the areas of court security and space and facilities, and serves as the primary contact on real property administration matters with the General Services Administration.

Finance and Budget

George H. Schafer, Assistant Director

Manages the budget, accounting, and financial systems of the Judiciary; prepares financial analyses on Judiciary programs; manages relocation and travel services for the courts; and serves as the Judiciary's point of contact for Congress on budget matters.

Human Resources and Statistics

Alton C. Ressler, Assistant Director

Manages services provided to the courts in the areas of statistics, personnel, payroll, health and

retirement benefits, workforce development, and dispute resolution.

Information Technology

Melvin J. Bryson, Assistant Director

Administers the information resources management program of the Judiciary; oversees the development, delivery/deployment, security, and management of all national IT systems.

Internal Services

Laura C. Minor, Assistant Director

Manages the Judiciary's procurement function; provides administrative support and services to the Administrative Office in areas such as budget, facilities, personnel, information technology and information management; and administers the Administrative Office's Equal Employment Opportunity programs.

Judges Programs

Peter G. McCabe, Assistant Director

Provides support and services for judges in program management and policy development, and assists judges and their chambers staff in obtaining support and services from other components of the Administrative Office.

Probation and Pretrial Services

John M. Hughes, Assistant Director

Determines the resource and program requirements of the probation and pretrial services system, and provides policy guidance, program evaluation services, management and technical assistance, and training to probation and pretrial services officers.