

Office of the State Courts Administrator  
The Supreme Court Building  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

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**Florida Supreme Court Committee to Host Nine Public  
Meetings on Future of Florida Courts**

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Think of the changes Florida has undergone in the last two decades – and imagine the changes that will take place in the next two decades.

As Florida changes, so too must Florida courts. Sheer population growth will increase the number of cases coming into the courts. Significant changes in demographic and societal trends will alter the kinds of cases that the courts must resolve. Economic changes will impact the resources available to handle cases. Emerging technologies will change the ways people interact with each other and with the courts.

Florida's judicial branch is working on a long-range strategic plan so that the courts can respond to new challenges and stand firm as a strong cornerstone of a well-functioning society and a healthy economy. And it wants to hear from people around the state as it develops its plan.

The Supreme Court Task Force on Judicial Branch Planning will hold nine meetings around the state. The Task Force is inviting citizens and local officials to share their thoughts on trends and conditions that they believe will impact the ability of the judicial branch to carry out its mission over the next 20 years. The current strategic plan for the Florida judicial branch, which can be found at [www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/stratplan/index.shtml](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/stratplan/index.shtml), includes the mission and vision of the branch.

Dates and locations for the meetings are:

Pensacola	September 29	Pensacola Public Library, Main
Orlando	October 1	Orlando Public Library, Main
Miami-Dade	October 2	Miami-Dade Public Library, Coral Cables Branch
Jacksonville	October 8	Pablo Creek Regional Library
St. Petersburg	October 14	St. Petersburg College, St. Pete/Gibbs Campus
Port St. Lucie	October 15	Schreiber Conference Center
Ft. Myers	October 16	Lakes Regional Library
Live Oak	October 22	Suwannee River Regional Library
Sanford	October 23	(location TBA)

Persons with disabilities or those using a TDD through the Florida Relay Service, 711, or who need an accommodation to participate should contact Kat Simpson at (850) 488-6569 as far in advance as possible, preferably at least five working days before the public hearing:

Individuals and organizations are also invited to submit written comments, which will be accepted through Nov. 1. Comments may be sent to:

Task Force on Judicial Branch Planning  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Strategic Planning  
Florida Supreme Court  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900

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**MISSION:** The mission of the judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

**VISION:** Justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive and accountable.