

Strategic Issue #1 - Enhancing the Administration of Justice - Issue description: Fair and timely court processes, and accurate and complete information are essential to the just resolution of disputes. Similarly, changes in statutes, case law and court rules affect what is done in the courts, how it is done, and those who conduct business in the courts.

- ❖ Seek general fund support for coordination, management and possible expansion of Therapeutic Courts.
- ❖ Seek funding for additional judicial resources, including 23rd judge.
- ❖ Comprehensive review of interpreter pay.
- ❖ Seek *Trueblood* funding for AOBHT and OCRP hearings.
- ❖ Comprehensive review of dependency dockets to achieve efficiencies.
- ❖ Reclassification of the Family Law Case Technician to a Family Court Services Coordinator.
- ❖ Stakeholder meeting with Pierce County Law Enforcement and other stakeholders about firearm surrender in the context of domestic violence.
- ❖ Advocate for additional Commissioner Services Department staff to assist with Domestic Violence Protection Order docket.
- ❖ Seek grants to improve the courts response to Domestic Violence issues.
- ❖ Evaluate use of existing human and technology resources within Superior Court to determine viability of savings to be utilized for other court priorities.
- ❖ Bring PCSC COOP plan in line with Pierce County OEM standards.
- ❖ Determine an alternative site for Western State Hospital during a catastrophic event.

Strategic Issue #2 - Broadening Access to Justice and Service to the Public - Issue description: Justice should be equally accessible to all participants. The Court is responsible for bringing the administration of justice to the public and making court facilities accessible to all. A trial court may be accessible and still hinder opportunities for the effective participation of all whom appear before the court, including those with linguistic difficulties, physical disabilities, and economic barriers.

- ❖ Support and encourage jury service.
- ❖ Expand available videos on Court website of Court processes, to include alternate languages.
- ❖ Translation of commonly used Juvenile court forms.
- ❖ Create a link to information on our website about types of Protection Orders and Joel's Law, with links to AOC forms.
- ❖ Increase options to assist Pro-Se litigants navigating the family law process.
- ❖ Assess the viability of updating our webpage to provide resources for self-represented parties.

Strategic Issue #3 - Promoting Competence, Professionalism and Civility - Issue description: The effective administration of justice depends upon respect for the Courts as an institution and the competence, professionalism and civility of those who work for or conduct business with the Court. Court personnel and the Pierce County Community are entitled to respectful and professional conduct from all court participants. Public servants must be well-trained and receive the support necessary to achieve excellence and meet the needs of the public.

- ❖ Final review of the Superior Court Personnel Manual updates.
- ❖ Judicial and staff education and training on issues of implicit and unconscious bias.
- ❖ Reach out to the TPCBA about judges providing CLE's on ethics.

Strategic Issue #4 - Judicial Independence: Ensuring Impartiality and

Accountability - Issue description: Judicial independence is a cornerstone of our democracy, and ensures that decisions of the courts are impartial and free from influence or control by other branches of government or private or political interests. Within the organizational structure of the judicial branch of government, trial courts must establish their legal and organizational boundaries, monitor and control their operations, and account publicly for their performance. Independence and accountability permit government by law, access to justice, and timely resolution of disputes with equality, fairness and integrity.

- ❖ Specialty Court presentations to Council.
- ❖ Investigate using a “secret shopper” program to review the Court’s effectiveness.
- ❖ Survey jurors on their experience during the court process.

Strategic Issue #5 - Improving Court Facilities - Issue description: The effective administration of justice requires an appropriate physical environment. Court personnel and the public deserve facilities that are safe, comfortable, accessible, secure, meet the needs of those who use them, and project the dignity of the Court.

- ❖ Continue persistent advocacy for upgraded/expanded Superior Court and Juvenile Court facilities and co-location of Juvenile Court adjacent to CCB.
- ❖ Investigate the feasibility of virtual courtrooms.
- ❖ Determine the location/process of hearings at the new ITA facility.
- ❖ Work with Facilities to produce better signage at the CCB, with an emphasis on jury administration.

Strategic Issue #6 - Effectively Utilizing Technology - Issue description: The Court should be using technology to enhance productivity, improve citizen access, and incorporate technological advancements. Technology must support the achievement of the Court’s mission.

- ❖ Investigate Jury Administration installing digital signs or screens in hall, jury room and lobby displaying the status of a group or if they are lining up.
- ❖ Investigate text reminder system for court proceedings.
- ❖ Make the website more user friendly and showcase the courts work.
- ❖ Implement video conferencing at the Lakewood and South Hill kiosks.
- ❖ Implement video arraignments for High Risk inmates.

Strategic Issue #7 - Building Trust and Confidence through Community Outreach

- Issue description: It is important for the Court to have a positive image within the community so that the justice system is respected and kept strong. Maintaining two-way communication between the Court and community can enhance the ability of the Court to serve the Community at the highest level possible.

- ❖ Complete Phase 3 of the Court History Project.
- ❖ Attend a community event with Administration employees to encourage employment and jury service.

- ❖ Attend local Legal classes with Administration employees to encourage a diverse hiring pool.
- ❖ Council Member tours of Superior Court facilities/functions.
- ❖ Continue to engage in community service and educational projects and promote those events via social media and reports.
- ❖ Begin a school visit program at the County-City Building using retired judges.