

Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks!

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:45 AM
To: John Dew
Cc: hforman@clerk-17th-flcourts.org; kmayes@clerk-17th-flcourts.org
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks John. I will let our clerks know what to expect.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:42 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Cc: hforman@clerk-17th-flcourts.org; kmayes@clerk-17th-flcourts.org
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Hi Sondra.

If your Acting Chief is not aware of how your circuit will be undertaking the handling of backlogged foreclosures for 10/11 then please wait until the Chief Judge returns. Our goal is to assure we work with the courts and provide the limited resources we have for the Clerks to help the Judges in their efforts. However the Clerks have received a copy of the correspondence to the Chief Judge that was sent out last week. Could you please keep them in the loop in whatever decision is made so they know when to expect communications with the Chief Judge or Acting Chief Judge.

Thanks,

John

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:22 AM
To: John Dew
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

John – Our Chief is out until next week, and I'm really not comfortable doing this in his absence. We have an Acting Chief, but I think it would be better to wait for Judge Fina since this is going to be an ongoing project. Is next week OK, or is this a "drop dead" deadline?

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit
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(386)362-2658 Fax

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
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Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Kristine Slayden <slaydenk@flcourts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:51 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

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)

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Kristine Slayden
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

I saw John's message. Our Chief has been meeting on a regular basis with the clerks, and he was planning to bring this up at their meeting late next week. I know that it can't wait that long, but there are some delicate politics going on. At this point, he hasn't even brought me back into those meetings although I always attended in the past. Judge Johnson is acting chief, but I don't think it's good to bring her in on this. Let me see if the Chief's JA will be hearing from him. I'm afraid that she won't, but I'll check.

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Third Judicial Circuit
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From: Kristine Slayden [mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:35 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Did you see the email from John Dew? I will forward it on to you. It has a deadline of June 5th!!! Let's see what can be done. I understand that your Chief needs to be involved though. Who is the acting chief while he is gone? Kris

Kris Slayden
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Florida Supreme Court
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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850-414-1342 (fax)

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Kristine Slayden
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Kris,

Our Chief Judge is out until next week, and I really need him to be involved in this. Will that be OK?

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
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(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Kristine Slayden [mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 9:10 AM
To: Trial Court Chief Judges
Cc: Trial Court Administrators; Lisa Goodner; Judge Margaret O. Steinbeck; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Theresa Westerfield; Arlene Johnson; Heather Thuotte-Pierson
Subject: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Chief Judges -

Attached are the final versions of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Circuit Allocations chart and the In-courtroom Resources chart. As mentioned in my email last Friday, the Trial Court Budget Commission anticipates that the chief judge in each circuit will work with their clerks to ensure the clerks use their separate appropriation (see excerpt of CS/HB 5401 below) to adequately support the court's plan. These plans (clerk's and court's) 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.

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) Executive Council met on May 25, 2010 to discuss their Finance and Budget (F&B) Committee's recommendation on the methodology for distribution of their foreclosure Appropriation. They discussed the language in CS/HB 5401 and were aware that the TCBC had asked the chief judges to work with the clerks on the plan.

The CCOC F&B Committee's recommendation distributed the \$3.6 million appropriation in the following manner: Part 1 distributes \$1.8 million based on the number of cases as referenced by the TCBC reimbursed at the average per case rate; and Part 2 distributes the remaining \$1.8 million based on Court determined percentage allocation of court appropriations for foreclosures to each of the Judicial Circuits. Since the CCOC F&B methodology does not allocate by county, there was discussion about an appropriate allocation in multi-county jurisdictions. It was decided that the clerks in multi-county jurisdictions should coordinate with each other, and all clerks, in every circuit, should meet with their chief judges to make sure that the county allocations and the clerks' plans match the plan of the chief judges in each circuit.

The clerks stated their understanding that the funding will be available on July 1st and they recognized the urgency to get the resources in place as soon as possible. They discussed the goal of the appropriation to clear the foreclosure backlog and agreed that they would hire resources to assist the courts in achieving that goal. Their chair, Mr. Forman, offered to

send a letter any chief judge, if contact was needed. They also passed a motion to develop a simple tracking system to make sure that they were able to track the money spent on this initiative. They plan to present a more formal plan for the tracking system at their next meeting on June 29, 2010.

Please contact the clerks in your circuit as soon as possible about your plan to fund this initiative. Legislative staff have requested that the clerks' and courts' spending plans be submitted at the same time so that they can ensure that the two plans work together in support of the goal.

The Trial Court Budget Commission plans to discuss this matter again at their June 4th meeting. Please let me know any update on the status of the communication with your clerks before the meeting, if at all possible. Thank you for your help. Kris

CS/HB 5401 Enrolled - The sum of \$3,600,000 of non-recurring funds from the Clerks of Court Trust Fund is appropriated to the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to be distributed to the clerks of court where the state court system has distributed the increased resources provided in the 2010-11 General Appropriations Act for workload associated with foreclosure and economic recovery. The corporation shall submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, to distribute the funding among the clerks of court.

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Sondra M. Lanier

From: Kristine Slayden <slaydenk@flcourts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:36 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: Foreclosures
Attachments: LtrToChiefCircuitJudge1203.pdf

Sorry. Saw that you were already copied. Kris

Kris Slayden
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Office of the State Courts Administrator
Florida Supreme Court
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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850-414-1342 (fax)

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@fccoc.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: Judge David Fina
Cc: Kristine Slayden; Millie Schneider; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

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Sondra M. Lanier

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Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 9:10 AM
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Cc: Trial Court Administrators; Lisa Goodner; Judge Margaret O. Steinbeck; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Theresa Westerfield; Arlene Johnson; Heather Thuotte-Pierson
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Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
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Attachments: LtrToChiefCircuitJudge1203.pdf

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Attachments: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery In Courtroom Resources Responses from Circuits_May 27 2010 (2).pdf; Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Plans Updated after 05212010.pdf

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Sondra M. Lanier

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: STATUS REPORT ORDER
Attachments: STATUS REPORT ORDER.doc

Do we have our form ready yet?

David W. Fina
Third Circuit Court Judge
Third Judicial Circuit

From: Cindy Mock [mailto:cmock@taylorclerk.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 12:20
To: David W. Fina
Subject: STATUS REPORT ORDER

Judge Fina:
Please review the attached Order Requiring Status Report with regards to foreclosure action, that I prepared. Please feel free to make changes/additions, and e-mail it back to me when it meets your approval.
Thanks,
Annie Mae

Cindy Mock
Administrative Assistant
to Annie Mae Murphy
Clerk Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida
108 N. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 620
Perry, FL 32348
(850) 838-3506 x111

Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Sybil C. Powell
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:59 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Yes absolutely now that you say it. But when I first read it I thought oh my goodness. Any how - - just trying to help. Sorry I gave you an irregular heart beat for a second. Take care and have a wonderful day. Oh by the way, don't forget to sent Judge Blair a "Happy Birthday" e-mail (of course, I will print it out for him) or you can just give him a call.

Sybil Powell

Judicial Assistant to
County Court Judge Wetzel Blair
Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County
125 SW Range Avenue
Madison, FL 32340
Office: (850) 973-6221
Fax: (850) 973-2975

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:56 AM
To: Sybil C. Powell
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

No – This time I actually got it right, although my heart stopped for a second because I usually manage to screw something up in an e-mail like that. We have had a couple of cases recently, at least one of which was a misdemeanor, in which attorneys have said that they want a stenographer rather than digital. Because digital meets the court's due process responsibility, the defendant/attorney has to pay for their own stenographer if they prefer to have one. Does that make sense?

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
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(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Sybil C. Powell
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:28 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Good morning. Just wondered if you meant to say "NOT" in the below:

If an attorney/defendant requests a stenographer in a case for which the Supreme Court has determined that digital is **NOT** acceptable, the attorney/defendant is responsible for hiring and paying for the court reporter

Sybil Powell

Judicial Assistant to
County Court Judge Wetzel Blair
Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County
125 SW Range Avenue

Madison, FL 32340
Office: (850) 973-6221
Fax: (850) 973-2975

From: Sondra M. Lanier

Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:16 PM

To: Candice T. Herring; Darren K. Jackson; David W. Fina; Debbie J. Saunders; Debra P. Sadler; Diane B. Hiers; Donna D. Moore; Donna K. Jones; E. Vernon Douglas; Frederick L. Koberlein; Greg Parker; H. Wetzel Blair; Heather J. Norris; James R. Bean; Jean Pittman; Joyce Cameron; Julian E. Collins; Leandra G. Johnson; Linda H. Morgan; Marcie A. Kemp; Melanie A. Vaughn; Millicent A. Schneider; Pam K. Ring; Paul S. Bryan; Sonny Scaff; Sybil C. Powell; Tom Coleman; William R. Slaughter

Cc: Lisa L. Butler; Brenda P. Pryce

Subject: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Good afternoon. Following are notes from Friday's meeting. Information in italics is related but supplemental to what was discussed at the meeting.

- Jacob Bell's last day is June 18, and he is moving away to Colorado. Harold Blakley's replacement (Duane Bestoso) will begin work on June 14. Judd Walden is also working in IT as an intern for the summer.
- Crystal Ecker and Sara Hall are doing a great job as law clerks. Crystal is the law clerk who was hired in April, and Sara is an intern for the summer. Debbie DeNike is supervising the law clerks, and they are working diligently to organize the pending motions and clear up as much backlog as possible. Jackie Jo Brinson and Junaid Savani have been hired as law clerks and will begin work on August 2 when the 90-day hold on those positions is lifted.
- Judy Eichar is retiring for health reasons, and although she is in the office until the end of June she is no longer able to work in the courtroom. Her position cannot be filled until October, so we will only have 2 stenographers until that time. Lynn Sapp will be out for surgery during a portion of that time, so we will only have 1 stenographer at times. We will use stenographers whenever available, and they will be assigned based on the prioritization established by the Supreme Court and our circuit's administrative order. However, we will have to depend on digital court reporters more often in those cases for which the Supreme Court has determined that digital is acceptable and meets our due process requirements. If an attorney/defendant requests a stenographer in a case for which the Supreme Court has determined that digital is acceptable, the attorney/defendant is responsible for hiring and paying for the court reporter.
- *Donations are being collected for a retirement gift for Judy. Lisa Butler will be purchasing a gift card for Judy on Wednesday, June 16, so please forward your donations to Lisa in the Live Oak office by Tuesday, June 15. If you work in Lake City, your donations can be given to Brenda Pryce for forwarding to Lisa.*
- Our state budgets remain basically the same as last year, so there should be no operational changes when our new fiscal year begins on July 1. The state courts trust fund was a key to our stability during the 2010 legislative session, and it will hopefully carry us through next year when the state's budget situation is expected to be even worse than this year.
- Judge Fina asked that judges remember to show appreciation to court staff who have now gone without a raise for almost 5 years. They have been working under difficult circumstances, and there is little else that we can do as an organization to help them.
- The county budgets for technology, facilities, and communications have been submitted to the counties. In order to assist the counties during the rough economic times they are facing, we have reduced the amounts requested from them by utilizing some of the unspent funds from previous years. We will be replacing some of our older computers and other equipment soon using reserves in our technology fund.
- Foreclosure and Economic Recovery funding has been made available to each circuit in order to address the statewide backlog in foreclosure cases. *This funding was allocated from the state courts trust fund, by the Legislature, at the request of the State Courts System. The courts, in partnership with the Bar, the banking industry, and other business leaders, lobbied the Legislature on this issue with the goal of moving foreclosure cases through the system to get properties back on the market to stimulate the economy.* This project is going to

be closely monitored and audited, with reports going back to the Legislature in the upcoming session to show that the courts utilized the funding to achieve its intended purpose.

Our circuit's backlog was calculate by the OSCA by subtracting the number of dispositions from the number of filings from 2006-2007 through 2009-2010 (projections used for the current year based on prior performance). According to the OSCA, our circuit has a backlog of 1,325 cases, and we have been instructed to dispose of 822 cases, or 62% of our total backlog. We have received a case manager position which is currently being advertised, and we were also appropriated a secretary position that we are not planning to fill at this time. The case manager will identify the cases making up the "backlog", determine the status of each, and report to the presiding judge for direction on further actions to be taken.

The original proposal included the management of contract/indebtedness cases and small claims cases from \$5,001 to \$15,000. However, the Trial Court Budget Commission determined that the funding should be used only for foreclosure cases until the circuit meets its target reduction. At that time, the circuit will be allowed to request permission from the TCBC to expand to include the other case types.

- The Clerks and Judges are planning a cookout at Judge Fina's house on the river in September. The proposed date was September 16, but that may need to be changed. Please let Judge Fina know your availability on Thursday evenings in September.
- Judge Fina asked for volunteers to complete the training necessary to become a mentor for new judges. Please let Judge Fina or Sondra know if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Sybil C. Powell
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:28 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Good morning. Just wondered if you meant to say "NOT" in the below:

If an attorney/defendant requests a stenographer in a case for which the Supreme Court has determined that digital is **NOT** acceptable, the attorney/defendant is responsible for hiring and paying for the court reporter

Sybil Powell

Judicial Assistant to
County Court Judge Wetzel Blair
Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County
125 SW Range Avenue
Madison, FL 32340
Office: (850) 973-6221
Fax: (850) 973-2975

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:16 PM
To: Candice T. Herring; Darren K. Jackson; David W. Fina; Debbie J. Saunders; Debra P. Sadler; Diane B. Hiers; Donna D. Moore; Donna K. Jones; E. Vernon Douglas; Frederick L. Koberlein; Greg Parker; H. Wetzel Blair; Heather J. Norris; James R. Bean; Jean Pittman; Joyce Cameron; Julian E. Collins; Leandra G. Johnson; Linda H. Morgan; Marcie A. Kemp; Melanie A. Vaughn; Millicent A. Schneider; Pam K. Ring; Paul S. Bryan; Sonny Scaff; Sybil C. Powell; Tom Coleman; William R. Slaughter
Cc: Lisa L. Butler; Brenda P. Pryce
Subject: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Good afternoon. Following are notes from Friday's meeting. Information in italics is related but supplemental to what was discussed at the meeting.

- Jacob Bell's last day is June 18, and he is moving away to Colorado. Harold Blakley's replacement (Duane Bestoso) will begin work on June 14. Judd Walden is also working in IT as an intern for the summer.
- Crystal Ecker and Sara Hall are doing a great job as law clerks. Crystal is the law clerk who was hired in April, and Sara is an intern for the summer. Debbie DeNike is supervising the law clerks, and they are working diligently to organize the pending motions and clear up as much backlog as possible. Jackie Jo Brinson and Junaid Savani have been hired as law clerks and will begin work on August 2 when the 90-day hold on those positions is lifted.
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- Our state budgets remain basically the same as last year, so there should be no operational changes when our new fiscal year begins on July 1. The state courts trust fund was a key to our stability during the 2010 legislative session, and it will hopefully carry us through next year when the state's budget situation is expected to be even worse than this year.
- Judge Fina asked that judges remember to show appreciation to court staff who have now gone without a raise for almost 5 years. They have been working under difficult circumstances, and there is little else that we can do as an organization to help them.
- The county budgets for technology, facilities, and communications have been submitted to the counties. In order to assist the counties during the rough economic times they are facing, we have reduced the amounts requested from them by utilizing some of the unspent funds from previous years. We will be replacing some of our older computers and other equipment soon using reserves in our technology fund.
- Foreclosure and Economic Recovery funding has been made available to each circuit in order to address the statewide backlog in foreclosure cases. *This funding was allocated from the state courts trust fund, by the Legislature, at the request of the State Courts System. The courts, in partnership with the Bar, the banking industry, and other business leaders, lobbied the Legislature on this issue with the goal of moving foreclosure cases through the system to get properties back on the market to stimulate the economy.* This project is going to be closely monitored and audited, with reports going back to the Legislature in the upcoming session to show that the courts utilized the funding to achieve its intended purpose.

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The original proposal included the management of contract/indebtedness cases and small claims cases from \$5,001 to \$15,000. However, the Trial Court Budget Commission determined that the funding should be used only for foreclosure cases until the circuit meets its target reduction. At that time, the circuit will be allowed to request permission from the TCBC to expand to include the other case types.

- The Clerks and Judges are planning a cookout at Judge Fina's house on the river in September. The proposed date was September 16, but that may need to be changed. Please let Judge Fina know your availability on Thursday evenings in September.
- Judge Fina asked for volunteers to complete the training necessary to become a mentor for new judges. Please let Judge Fina or Sondra know if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
 Third Judicial Circuit
 (386)758-2163 Lake City
 (386)362-1017 Live Oak
 (386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Leandra G. Johnson
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Thanks. I hope you do too.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:56 PM
To: Leandra G. Johnson
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Sure. I hope you have a great weekend.

-----Original Message-----

From: Leandra G. Johnson <Johnson.Leandra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:22 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Thank you.

From: Sondra M. Lanier
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To: Candice T. Herring; Darren K. Jackson; David W. Fina; Debbie J. Saunders; Debra P. Sadler; Diane B. Hiers; Donna D. Moore; Donna K. Jones; E. Vernon Douglas; Frederick L. Koberlein; Greg Parker; H. Wetzel Blair; Heather J. Norris; James R. Bean; Jean Pittman; Joyce Cameron; Julian E. Collins; Leandra G. Johnson; Linda H. Morgan; Marcie A. Kemp; Melanie A. Vaughn; Millicent A. Schneider; Pam K. Ring; Paul S. Bryan; Sonny Scaff; Sybil C. Powell; Tom Coleman; William R. Slaughter
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Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit

(386)758-2163 Lake City

(386)362-1017 Live Oak

(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Leandra G. Johnson
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To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

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Sondra Lanier

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 Third Judicial Circuit
 (386)758-2163 Lake City
 (386)362-1017 Live Oak
 (386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 4:52 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

I got an ok from Barry, Tim, and Ricky so far. No one else has replied.
Can you go ahead and send it off?

David W. Fina
Third Circuit Court Judge
Third Judicial Circuit

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:23
To: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

Sounds perfect.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:22 AM
To: 'P. DeWitt Cason'; 'Hon. Annie Mae Murphy'; 'Hon. Barry Baker'; 'Hon. Dana Johnson'; 'Hon. Greg Godwin'; 'Hon. Ricky Lyons'; 'Hon. Tim Sanders'
Cc: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

Below please find a proposed response on our plan to Mr. Dew.
Please give me your thoughts.
Thanks for your help.
David

Mr. Dew,

I write in response to Mr. Howard Forman's letter regarding the appropriation for the foreclosure and economic recovery initiative. I am providing feedback on behalf of the Third Judicial Circuit. The seven clerks of our circuit, our court administrator, and I had a conference call to discuss our plan and we are in agreement on this plan.

We plan to use the Court Administration portion of the appropriation for temporary staff (1 case manager and 1 secretary) to work in conjunction with the clerks to review cases, identify the ones that need to be dismissed, follow up on cases with no activity, send notices and correspondence as needed, and set status conferences as deemed appropriate before the assigned judge.

The additional case management will result in more work by our clerks, such as pulling files more frequently, increased filing, etc. The \$24k is insufficient for additional positions in all seven clerks' offices. The clerks have requested that their

portion be use to pay over time to employees, related costs and postage. We plan to work as closely as possible to comply with the initiative goals

Please let me know if you need additional information, or you may contact our court administrator, Sondra Lanier, at 386-362-1017 or lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org.

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 11:52 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Cc: Greg Cowan
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Hi Sondra,

Just a reminder, please send the plan this afternoon so we can include it in our CCOC packet for Monday's meeting.

Thanks,

John

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 2:28 PM
To: John Dew
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

I was wrong. This week is the judges' meeting, so the meeting with the clerks must be the next week. We will get a plan to you by Friday afternoon anyway though.

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:38 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks Sondra.

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:03 AM
To: John Dew
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

John,

Judge Fina will be meeting with all of the clerks at lunch on Friday. We should be able to report back to you that afternoon without a problem.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
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From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:02 AM

To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Good Morning Judge Fina.

While I understand you were out of the office last week, I am just checking back with you on the progress concerning the earlier request for information. Would it be possible for your office to provide the information prior to 5pm on Friday, June 11th? We have a CCOC Executive Council meeting on Monday, June 14th to vote on a plan for distributing budget authority for Clerks to help in the foreclosure recovery plan and need information from your office to help. We then plan on meeting with Legislative staff on the 16th to present our plan.

We appreciate your help.

Thanks,

John

From: John Dew
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: fina.david@jud3.flcourts.org
Cc: Kristine Slayden; schneider.millie@jud3.flcourts.org; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

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Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:22 AM
To: 'P. DeWitt Cason'; 'Hon. Annie Mae Murphy'; 'Hon. Barry Baker'; 'Hon. Dana Johnson'; 'Hon. Greg Godwin'; 'Hon. Ricky Lyons'; 'Hon. Tim Sanders'
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Sondra M. Lanier

From: ricky lyons <rnclerk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 12:56 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Re: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

While I am thinking about it please change my email to rlyons@lafayetteclerk.com.
Thanks,
Ricky

From: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
To: rnclerk@yahoo.com
Sent: Wed, June 9, 2010 11:18:56 AM
Subject: RE: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

Thanks Ricky.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: rnclerk@yahoo.com [mailto:rnclerk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 11:16 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Re: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

One of us will try to call in. Ricky Lyons

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: "Sondra M. Lanier" <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Date: Wed, 9 Jun 2010 10:14:02 -0400
To: <pdcaason@columbiaclerk.com>; <djohnson@dixieclerk.com>; <hamiltonclerk@flcfn.net>; <rnclerk@yahoo.com>; <tsanders@madisonclerk.com>; <barryb@suwclerk.org>; <cmock@taylorclerk.com>
Cc: David W. Fina<Fina.David@jud3.flcourts.org>; Millicent A. Schneider<schneider.millie@jud3.flcourts.org>
Subject: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

Good morning.

As you know, Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding has been made available statewide in order to address the foreclosure backlog in the courts. According to the numbers provided to us by the Office of the State Courts Administrator, our circuit has a backlog of 1,325 cases. The backlog was calculated by subtracting the number of dispositions from the number of filings from 2006-2007 through 2009-2010, and the target reduction set for our circuit is 822 cases.

Our circuit has received funding for an OPS case manager and a secretary, and we will be allowed to bring these positions on starting July 1. According to information distributed at the TCBC meeting on Friday, there is \$24,077.72 earmarked for clerks in our circuit. We are supposed to provide information about a coordinated plan to the CCOC and OSCA by Friday afternoon, so we need to figure out how we can use our positions and the clerks' allocation collaboratively to address the backlog and meet our target reduction. Once we have met our reduction, we can request approval from the TCBC for the OPS staff to begin addressing small claims (\$5,001 – \$15,000) and/or contract/indebtedness cases.

Judge Fina has asked me to arrange a conference call to discuss this, so we have scheduled a call for 2:00 this afternoon. Please let us know if you are available. If you can attend, please call 850-487-8439. The conference code is 850151, and that should be entered and followed by #.

Thanks for your flexibility in working with us on such short notice.

Sondra Lanier

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Third Judicial Circuit
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Sondra M. Lanier

From: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 9:47 AM
To: Trial Court Administrators
Subject: Foreclosure Case Management

Good morning. I'm sure that my esteemed colleagues are ahead of me on this, so would someone please share your plan? We have a conference call with our clerks this afternoon and I am working on my proposal.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
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Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:02 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Good Morning Judge Fina.

While I understand you were out of the office last week, I am just checking back with you on the progress concerning the earlier request for information. Would it be possible for your office to provide the information prior to 5pm on Friday, June 11th? We have a CCOC Executive Council meeting on Monday, June 14th to vote on a plan for distributing budget authority for Clerks to help in the foreclosure recovery plan and need information from your office to help. We then plan on meeting with Legislative staff on the 16th to present our plan.

We appreciate your help.

Thanks,

John

From: John Dew
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: fina.david@jud3.flcourts.org
Cc: Kristine Slayden; schneider.millie@jud3.flcourts.org; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Gary Phillips <phillipsg@flcourts.org>
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 3:44 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: OPS Positions for Foreclosure Backlog/Economic Recovery

Thank you.

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 2:03 PM
To: Gary Phillips
Cc: Barbara Lussier; Lisa Butler
Subject: RE: OPS Positions for Foreclosure Backlog/Economic Recovery

Please see attached.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Gary Phillips [mailto:phillipsg@flcourts.org]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 11:56 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: OPS Positions for Foreclosure Backlog/Economic Recovery

Sondra,

Yes, please. It will be much easier for us to set everything up now.

Thanks,
Gary

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 11:28 AM
To: Gary Phillips
Subject: RE: OPS Positions for Foreclosure Backlog/Economic Recovery

Gary,

We are going to hire one position right away, but we are going to hold off on the second one until we get a better handle on the workload. Do you need both on this spreadsheet?

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Gary Phillips [mailto:phillipsg@flcourts.org]
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
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: phillipsg@flcourts.org

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Gary Phillips <phillipsg@flcourts.org>
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 11:56 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
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(386)758-2163 Lake City
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phone: 850-617-4028
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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

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Office of the State Courts Administrator
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phone: 850-617-4028
fax: 850-488-3744
email: phillipsg@flcourts.org

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Millicent A. Schneider
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:11 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Plan

Sondra,
I believe Barry's address is barryb@suwclerk.org. You left out the u.
m

*Millie J. Schneider
Judicial Assistant to
Circuit Judge David W. Fina
Third Judicial Circuit*

***If you have an urgent communication or if you have not heard from me in response to your e-mail, telephone me. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOUR E-MAIL HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:08 AM
To: Millicent A. Schneider
Subject: FW: Foreclosure Plan

Please see the following that I sent Judge Fina. I was hoping that you would hear from him so that you could find out if or how he wanted me to handle it while he was out, but Lori said that you don't expect to hear from him. I didn't think that it was a good idea for me to bring Judge Johnson in since Judge Fina and I have been and will be working on it, and coordinating with the clerks will be a critical part of the process.

The e-mail to Barry was returned. Can you please tell me a correct e-mail address for him?

Thanks.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:52 AM
To: 'pdcason@columbiaclerk.com'; 'djohnson@dixieclerk.com'; 'hamiltonclerk@flcfn.net'; 'rnlclerk@yahoo.com'; 'tsanders@madisonclerk.com'; 'barryb@swclerk.org'; 'cmock@taylorclerk.com'
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: Foreclosure Plan

Good morning. I have received communication from the CCOC and OSCA regarding the need for the clerks and courts to develop a coordinated approach to the foreclosure issue. I just wanted to let you know that Judge Fina is out this week, but we will be in touch early next week regarding this. I have been in contact with John Dew, and he is OK with the timetable given Judge Fina's absence.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks!

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:45 AM
To: John Dew
Cc: hforman@clerk-17th-flcourts.org; kmayes@clerk-17th-flcourts.org
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks John. I will let our clerks know what to expect.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:42 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Cc: hforman@clerk-17th-flcourts.org; kmayes@clerk-17th-flcourts.org
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Hi Sondra.

If your Acting Chief is not aware of how your circuit will be undertaking the handling of backlogged foreclosures for 10/11 then please wait until the Chief Judge returns. Our goal is to assure we work with the courts and provide the limited resources we have for the Clerks to help the Judges in their efforts. However the Clerks have received a copy of the correspondence to the Chief Judge that was sent out last week. Could you please keep them in the loop in whatever decision is made so they know when to expect communications with the Chief Judge or Acting Chief Judge.

Thanks,

John

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:22 AM
To: John Dew
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

John – Our Chief is out until next week, and I'm really not comfortable doing this in his absence. We have an Acting Chief, but I think it would be better to wait for Judge Fina since this is going to be an ongoing project. Is next week OK, or is this a "drop dead" deadline?

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@fcccoc.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:42 AM
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Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
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Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Kristine Slayden <slaydenk@flcourts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:51 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

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)

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Kristine Slayden
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

I saw John's message. Our Chief has been meeting on a regular basis with the clerks, and he was planning to bring this up at their meeting late next week. I know that it can't wait that long, but there are some delicate politics going on. At this point, he hasn't even brought me back into those meetings although I always attended in the past. Judge Johnson is acting chief, but I don't think it's good to bring her in on this. Let me see if the Chief's JA will be hearing from him. I'm afraid that she won't, but I'll check.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Kristine Slayden [mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:35 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Did you see the email from John Dew? I will forward it on to you. It has a deadline of June 5th!!! Let's see what can be done. I understand that your Chief needs to be involved though. Who is the acting chief while he is gone? 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)

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Kristine Slayden
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Kris,

Our Chief Judge is out until next week, and I really need him to be involved in this. Will that be OK?

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Kristine Slayden [mailto:slaydenk@flcourts.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 9:10 AM
To: Trial Court Chief Judges
Cc: Trial Court Administrators; Lisa Goodner; Judge Margaret O. Steinbeck; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Theresa Westerfield; Arlene Johnson; Heather Thuotte-Pierson
Subject: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding

Chief Judges -

Attached are the final versions of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Circuit Allocations chart and the In-courtroom Resources chart. As mentioned in my email last Friday, the Trial Court Budget Commission anticipates that the chief judge in each circuit will work with their clerks to ensure the clerks use their separate appropriation (see excerpt of CS/HB 5401 below) to adequately support the court's plan. These plans (clerk's and court's) 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.

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) Executive Council met on May 25, 2010 to discuss their Finance and Budget (F&B) Committee's recommendation on the methodology for distribution of their foreclosure Appropriation. They discussed the language in CS/HB 5401 and were aware that the TCBC had asked the chief judges to work with the clerks on the plan.

The CCOC F&B Committee's recommendation distributed the \$3.6 million appropriation in the following manner: Part 1 distributes \$1.8 million based on the number of cases as referenced by the TCBC reimbursed at the average per case rate; and Part 2 distributes the remaining \$1.8 million based on Court determined percentage allocation of court appropriations for foreclosures to each of the Judicial Circuits. Since the CCOC F&B methodology does not allocate by county, there was discussion about an appropriate allocation in multi-county jurisdictions. It was decided that the clerks in multi-county jurisdictions should coordinate with each other, and all clerks, in every circuit, should meet with their chief judges to make sure that the county allocations and the clerks' plans match the plan of the chief judges in each circuit.

The clerks stated their understanding that the funding will be available on July 1st and they recognized the urgency to get the resources in place as soon as possible. They discussed the goal of the appropriation to clear the foreclosure backlog and agreed that they would hire resources to assist the courts in achieving that goal. Their chair, Mr. Forman, offered to

send a letter any chief judge, if contact was needed. They also passed a motion to develop a simple tracking system to make sure that they were able to track the money spent on this initiative. They plan to present a more formal plan for the tracking system at their next meeting on June 29, 2010.

Please contact the clerks in your circuit as soon as possible about your plan to fund this initiative. Legislative staff have requested that the clerks' and courts' spending plans be submitted at the same time so that they can ensure that the two plans work together in support of the goal.

The Trial Court Budget Commission plans to discuss this matter again at their June 4th meeting. Please let me know any update on the status of the communication with your clerks before the meeting, if at all possible. Thank you for your help. Kris

CS/HB 5401 Enrolled - The sum of \$3,600,000 of non-recurring funds from the Clerks of Court Trust Fund is appropriated to the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to be distributed to the clerks of court where the state court system has distributed the increased resources provided in the 2010-11 General Appropriations Act for workload associated with foreclosure and economic recovery. The corporation shall submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, to distribute the funding among the clerks of court.

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500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850-922-5106 (wk)
850-556-2335 (cell)
850-414-1342 (fax)

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Kristine Slayden <slaydenk@flcourts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:36 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: Foreclosures
Attachments: LtrToChiefCircuitJudge1203.pdf

Sorry. Saw that you were already copied. 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)
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From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: Judge David Fina
Cc: Kristine Slayden; Millie Schneider; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

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CCOC Executive Director

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500 S. Duval Street
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Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Foreclosures
Attachments: LtrToChiefCircuitJudge1203.pdf

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To: Trial Court Chief Judges
Cc: Trial Court Administrators; Lisa Goodner; Judge Margaret O. Steinbeck; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Theresa Westerfield; Arlene Johnson; Heather Thuotte-Pierson
Subject: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding
Attachments: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery In Courtroom Resources Responses from Circuits_May 27 2010 (2).pdf; Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Plans Updated after 05212010.pdf

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Attached are the final versions of the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding Circuit Allocations chart and the In-courtroom Resources chart. As mentioned in my email last Friday, the Trial Court Budget Commission anticipates that the chief judge in each circuit will work with their clerks to ensure the clerks use their separate appropriation (see excerpt of CS/HB 5401 below) to adequately support the court's plan. These plans (clerk's and court's) 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.

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) Executive Council met on May 25, 2010 to discuss their Finance and Budget (F&B) Committee's recommendation on the methodology for distribution of their foreclosure Appropriation. They discussed the language in CS/HB 5401 and were aware that the TCBC had asked the chief judges to work with the clerks on the plan.

The CCOC F&B Committee's recommendation distributed the \$3.6 million appropriation in the following manner: Part 1 distributes \$1.8 million based on the number of cases as referenced by the TCBC reimbursed at the average per case rate; and Part 2 distributes the remaining \$1.8 million based on Court determined percentage allocation of court appropriations for foreclosures to each of the Judicial Circuits. Since the CCOC F&B methodology does not allocate by county, there was discussion about an appropriate allocation in multi-county jurisdictions. It was decided that the clerks in multi-county jurisdictions should coordinate with each other, and all clerks, in every circuit, should meet with their chief judges to make sure that the county allocations and the clerks' plans match the plan of the chief judges in each circuit.

The clerks stated their understanding that the funding will be available on July 1st and they recognized the urgency to get the resources in place as soon as possible. They discussed the goal of the appropriation to clear the foreclosure backlog and agreed that they would hire resources to assist the courts in achieving that goal. Their chair, Mr. Forman, offered to send a letter any chief judge, if contact was needed. They also passed a motion to develop a simple tracking system to make sure that they were able to track the money spent on this initiative. They plan to present a more formal plan for the tracking system at their next meeting on June 29, 2010.

Please contact the clerks in your circuit as soon as possible about your plan to fund this initiative. Legislative staff have requested that the clerks' and courts' spending plans be submitted at the same time so that they can ensure that the two plans work together in support of the goal.

The Trial Court Budget Commission plans to discuss this matter again at their June 4th meeting. Please let me know any update on the status of the communication with your clerks before the meeting, if at all possible. Thank you for your help. Kris

CS/HB 5401 Enrolled - The sum of \$3,600,000 of non-recurring funds from the Clerks of Court Trust Fund is appropriated to the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to be distributed to the clerks of court where the state court system has distributed the increased resources provided in the 2010-11 General Appropriations Act for workload associated with foreclosure and economic recovery. The corporation shall submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, to distribute the funding among the clerks of court.

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)

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Dorothy Wilson <burked@flcourts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:05 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
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: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:56 PM
To: Dorothy Wilson
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11

Ours should remain as is.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Dorothy Wilson [mailto:burked@flcourts.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Grant Slayden; Sondra M. Lanier; Mark Weinberg; 'Ted McFetridge'; Matthew Benefiel; Mike Bridenback; Carol Ortman; Richard Callanan
Subject: FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Non-recurring Funding FY 2010/11
Importance: High

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 burked@flcourts.org by COB Tuesday, May 25th. 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 10th, 12th, and 15th 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 4th 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 burked@flcourts.org 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:	Magistrate	\$35.48 hourly
Case Management:	Court Program Specialist II	\$17.36 hourly
	Court Program Specialist I	\$14.58 hourly
	Court Program Specialist I	\$15.40 hourly w/ CAD – Hillsborough and Pinellas
	Court Program Specialist I	\$15.40 hourly w/ CAD – Broward, Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach
Admin. Support:	Senior Secretary	\$11.89 hourly
	Senior Secretary	\$12.10 hourly w/ CAD – Hillsborough and Pinellas
	Senior Secretary	\$12.48 hourly w/ CAD – Broward, Dade, Monroe, 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)

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Dorothy Wilson <burked@flcourts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Grant Slayden; Sondra M. Lanier; Mark Weinberg; 'Ted McFetridge'; Matthew Benefiel; Mike Bridenback; Carol Ortman; Richard Callanan
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 RPFM Backlog.pdf

Importance: High

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
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- 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.
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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)

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Pat Perry <pperry@columbiaclerk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 4:11 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure cases

That's fine. Will you be using the same forms and procedures that we use? Just let me know what you need.

Patricia A. Perry
Chief Deputy
Columbia County Clerk of Courts
P. O. Box 2069
Lake City, FL 32056
386.758.1350

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Pat Perry
Subject: RE: Foreclosure cases

Thanks Pat. I started with Lori since she ran the report for Carrina, but I'll work with you. We are supposed to be looking at our pending foreclosure cases and seeing if any court action is needed to get/keep them moving. I just looked at a sample of them on CCIS to get a feel for what is going to be involved before I assign anyone. I will be getting with you soon if that's OK.

Sondra

From: Pat Perry [mailto:pperry@columbiaclerk.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:02 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Foreclosure cases

Sondra, I supervise the circuit and county civil/small claims departments. Dismissal of inactive foreclosure cases (and county civil cases) is a two-step process and governed by Florida Rule of Procedure 1.420(e). Small Claims cases are governed by Florida Small Claims Rule 7.110(e) and are subject to 6 months inactivity.

Patricia A. Perry
Chief Deputy
Columbia County Clerk of Courts
P. O. Box 2069
Lake City, FL 32056
386.758.1350

Sondra M. Lanier

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*Patricia A. Perry
Chief Deputy
Columbia County Clerk of Courts
P. O. Box 2069
Lake City, FL 32056
386.758.1350*

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Lori Koon <lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 2:22 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

No, we go by the 10 month rule.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 1:44 PM
To: Lori Koon
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

We are being required to specifically review foreclosures, so we can do that part and free you up a little. Once those are caught up, we will have to look at contract/indebtedness and small claims between 5001 and 15000 dollars. There are quite a few that at first glance should probably be dismissed, so I was wondering if you have any criteria other than 10 months with no activity.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Koon <lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:12 PM
To: 'Sondra M. Lanier' <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Cc: 'Pat Perry' <pperry@columbiaclerk.com>; Belinda Scippio <bscippio@columbiaclerk.com>
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

That is fine. I will try to assist you anyway possible. This is one that just got overlooked. We need to go to the next step with this one. I will be it to the department supervisor. We are in the process of working on the Notice of Intent to Dismiss Cases. We have been trying to work one department at a time and have been trying to work on county civil and small claims. I know that some work has been done on the Circuit Civil cases, but I am not sure how much.

Lori

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Lori Koon
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

Sorry. I may be firing questions off for a few days. We've been instructed to look at our pending foreclosure cases and start case management to try to catch up what the people in Tallahassee see as a backlog. I'm trying to get up-to-speed on foreclosures and figure out what we need to do before I delegate it.

One example is 06-125. There was a Notice of Intent to Dismiss for Failure to Prosecute on December 27, 2007. Nothing happened after that, and then there are quite a few older cases where no notice was sent. I was trying to understand the criteria and process. That's all (for now anyway).

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit

(386)758-2163 Lake City

(386)362-1017 Live Oak

(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Lori Koon [mailto:lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:32 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

Sondra,

Can you give me a few of the case numbers that you are referring to so I can look at them.

Thanks,

Lori

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:20 AM
To: lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com
Subject: Foreclosure Question

Hi Lori,

Carrina forwarded the information you gave her. I noticed that there were dismissal notices in some of them. Can you please tell me what the "trigger" or criteria is for those?

Thanks.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit

(386)758-2163 Lake City

(386)362-1017 Live Oak

(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Lori Koon <lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:15 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Cc: 'Pat Perry'; Belinda Scippio
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

That is fine. I will try to assist you anyway possible. This is one that just got overlooked. We need to go to the next step with this one. I will be it to the department supervisor. We are in the process of working on the Notice of Intent to Dismiss Cases. We have been trying to work one department at a time and have been trying to work on county civil and small claims. I know that some work has been done on the Circuit Civil cases, but I am not sure how much.

Lori

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Lori Koon
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

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One example is 06-125. There was a Notice of Intent to Dismiss for Failure to Prosecute on December 27, 2007. Nothing happened after that, and then there are quite a few older cases where no notice was sent. I was trying to understand the criteria and process. That's all (for now anyway)...

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Lori Koon [mailto:lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:32 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

Sondra,

Can you give me a few of the case numbers that you are referring to so I can look at them.

Thanks,
Lori

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:20 AM
To: lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com
Subject: Foreclosure Question

Hi Lori,

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Thanks.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
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Sondra M. Lanier

From: Lori Koon <lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:32 AM
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Subject: RE: Foreclosure Question

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Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:20 AM
To: lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com
Subject: Foreclosure Question

Hi Lori,

Carrina forwarded the information you gave her. I noticed that there were dismissal notices in some of them. Can you please tell me what the "trigger" or criteria is for those?

Thanks.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Carrina M. Cooper
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:38 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: Pending Foreclosure Numbers
Attachments: Pending Case Addendum Thru May 24 2010.pdf

Sondra

Please see below.

Carrina

From: Lori Koon [mailto:lbkoon@columbiaclerk.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:33 AM
To: Carrina M. Cooper
Subject: RE: Pending Foreclosure Numbers

Carrina,

Attached is a list of All Pending Circuit Civil Actions. Prior to 2010, they were all listed as Real Property Mtg Foreclosure. Beginning in 2010 they are separated in 12 different categories, they all begin with RP/MF.

Hope this is what you are looking for. You can also, find some of this information in the CCIS program.

Call or email if you need anymore help.

Lori

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Brenda P. Pryce
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Okay

Brenda Pryce
Court Operations Consultant
Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
Office: (386) 719-7576
Fax: (386) 758-2162

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Brenda P. Pryce
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Yes. I will call you in a few minutes.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Brenda P. Pryce
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Are these time limited positions?

Brenda Pryce
Court Operations Consultant
Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
Office: (386) 719-7576
Fax: (386) 758-2162

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:23 AM
To: Brenda P. Pryce
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Yes.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Brenda P. Pryce
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Are we hiring under this project?

Brenda Pryce
Court Operations Consultant
Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
Office: (386) 719-7576
Fax: (386) 758-2162

From: Gary Phillips [mailto:phillipsg@flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:59 AM
To: Circuit Personnel Reps
Cc: Trial Court Administrators; Delcynth Schloss; Charlotte Jerrett
Subject: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Good Morning All:

This is to address issues concerning the use of OPS resources for the foreclosure backlog.

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- All OPS employees are paid biweekly. **Attached is a biweekly pay schedule.**
- Payroll processing each biweekly pay period for OPS employees will be complete only upon receipt of the OPS employee's timesheet, also on our Intranet site, signed by the employee and approved by the manager/supervisor and submitted to our office in a timely manner.
- Overtime is not permitted. Should overtime inadvertently occur, the employees in included classes will have to be paid time-and-a-half.

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This amount does not include the 7.65% FICA that needs to be added to the hourly rate. You will need to add this amount when tracking your budget.

Best of luck with this project. I am available if I can be of any assistance.

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: phillipsg@flcourts.org

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Brenda P. Pryce
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Are these time limited positions?

Brenda Pryce
Court Operations Consultant
Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
Office: (386) 719-7576
Fax: (386) 758-2162

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:23 AM
To: Brenda P. Pryce
Subject: RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Yes.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Brenda P. Pryce
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:23 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information

Are we hiring under this project?

Brenda Pryce
Court Operations Consultant
Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
Office: (386) 719-7576
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From: Gary Phillips [mailto:phillipsg@flcourts.org]
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From: Brenda P. Pryce
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:23 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery - OPS Information
Attachments: 2010 Biweekly Schedule.doc

Are we hiring under this project?

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Court Administration
Third Judicial Circuit
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Fax: (386) 758-2162

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 email: phillipsg@flcourts.org

Sondra M. Lanier

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: FW: STATUS REPORT ORDER
Attachments: STATUS REPORT ORDER.doc

Do we have our form ready yet?

David W. Fina
Third Circuit Court Judge
Third Judicial Circuit

From: Cindy Mock [mailto:cmock@taylorclerk.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 12:20
To: David W. Fina
Subject: STATUS REPORT ORDER

Judge Fina:

Please review the attached Order Requiring Status Report with regards to foreclosure action, that I prepared. Please feel free to make changes/additions, and e-mail it back to me when it meets your approval.

Thanks,
Annie Mae

Cindy Mock
Administrative Assistant
to Annie Mae Murphy
Clerk Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida
108 N. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 620
Perry, FL 32348
(850) 838-3506 x111

Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Sybil C. Powell
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:59 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Yes absolutely now that you say it. But when I first read it I thought oh my goodness. Any how - - just trying to help. Sorry I gave you an irregular heart beat for a second. Take care and have a wonderful day. Oh by the way, don't forget to sent Judge Blair a "Happy Birthday" e-mail (of course, I will print it out for him) or you can just give him a call.

Sybil Powell

Judicial Assistant to
County Court Judge Wetzel Blair
Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County
125 SW Range Avenue
Madison, FL 32340
Office: (850) 973-6221
Fax: (850) 973-2975

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:56 AM
To: Sybil C. Powell
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

No -- This time I actually got it right, although my heart stopped for a second because I usually manage to screw something up in an e-mail like that. We have had a couple of cases recently, at least one of which was a misdemeanor, in which attorneys have said that they want a stenographer rather than digital. Because digital meets the court's due process responsibility, the defendant/attorney has to pay for their own stenographer if they prefer to have one. Does that make sense?

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: Sybil C. Powell
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 9:28 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Good morning. Just wondered if you meant to say "NOT" in the below:

If an attorney/defendant requests a stenographer in a case for which the Supreme Court has determined that digital is NOT acceptable, the attorney/defendant is responsible for hiring and paying for the court reporter

Sybil Powell

Judicial Assistant to
County Court Judge Wetzel Blair
Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County
125 SW Range Avenue

Madison, FL 32340
Office: (850) 973-6221
Fax: (850) 973-2975

From: Sondra M. Lanier

Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:16 PM

To: Candice T. Herring; Darren K. Jackson; David W. Fina; Debbie J. Saunders; Debra P. Sadler; Diane B. Hiers; Donna D. Moore; Donna K. Jones; E. Vernon Douglas; Frederick L. Koberlein; Greg Parker; H. Wetzel Blair; Heather J. Norris; James R. Bean; Jean Pittman; Joyce Cameron; Julian E. Collins; Leandra G. Johnson; Linda H. Morgan; Marcie A. Kemp; Melanie A. Vaughn; Millicent A. Schneider; Pam K. Ring; Paul S. Bryan; Sonny Scaff; Sybil C. Powell; Tom Coleman; William R. Slaughter

Cc: Lisa L. Butler; Brenda P. Pryce

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be closely monitored and audited, with reports going back to the Legislature in the upcoming session to show that the courts utilized the funding to achieve its intended purpose.

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Sondra M. Lanier

From: Leandra G. Johnson
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Thanks. I hope you do too.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:56 PM
To: Leandra G. Johnson
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

Sure. I hope you have a great weekend.

-----Original Message-----

From: Leandra G. Johnson <Johnson.Leandra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 3:22 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Subject: RE: Notes from Friday's Meeting

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* Judge Fina asked that judges remember to show appreciation to court staff who have now gone without a raise for almost 5 years. They have been working under difficult circumstances, and there is little else that we can do as an organization to help them.

* The county budgets for technology, facilities, and communications have been submitted to the counties. In order to assist the counties during the rough economic times they are facing, we have reduced the amounts requested from them by utilizing some of the unspent funds from previous years. We will be replacing some of our older computers and other equipment soon using reserves in our technology fund.

* Foreclosure and Economic Recovery funding has been made available to each circuit in order to address the statewide backlog in foreclosure cases. This funding was allocated from the state courts trust fund, by the Legislature, at the request of the State Courts System. The courts, in partnership with the Bar, the banking industry, and other business leaders, lobbied the Legislature on this issue with the goal of moving foreclosure cases through the system to get properties back on the market to stimulate the economy. This project is going to be closely monitored and audited, with reports going back to the Legislature in the upcoming session to show that the courts utilized the funding to achieve its intended purpose.

Our circuit's backlog was calculate by the OSCA by subtracting the number of dispositions from the number of filings from 2006-2007 through 2009-2010 (projections used for the current year based on prior performance). According to the OSCA, our circuit has a backlog of 1,325 cases, and we have been instructed to dispose of 822 cases, or 62% of our total backlog. We have received a case manager position which is currently being advertised, and we were also appropriated a secretary position that we are not planning to fill at this time. The case manager will identify the cases making up the "backlog", determine the status of each, and report to the presiding judge for direction on further actions to be taken.

The original proposal included the management of contract/indebtedness cases and small claims cases from \$5,001 to \$15,000. However, the Trial Court Budget Commission determined that the funding should be used only for foreclosure cases until the circuit meets its target reduction. At that time, the circuit will be allowed to request permission from the TCBC to expand to include the other case types.

* The Clerks and Judges are planning a cookout at Judge Fina's house on the river in September. The proposed date was September 16, but that may need to be changed. Please let Judge Fina know your availability on Thursday evenings in September.

* Judge Fina asked for volunteers to complete the training necessary to become a mentor for new judges. Please let Judge Fina or Sondra know if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator

Third Judicial Circuit

(386)758-2163 Lake City

(386)362-1017 Live Oak

(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 4:52 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

I got an ok from Barry, Tim, and Ricky so far. No one else has replied.
Can you go ahead and send it off?

David W. Fina
Third Circuit Court Judge
Third Judicial Circuit

From: Sondra M. Lanier
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:23
To: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

Sounds perfect.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:22 AM
To: 'P. DeWitt Cason'; 'Hon. Annie Mae Murphy'; 'Hon. Barry Baker'; 'Hon. Dana Johnson'; 'Hon. Greg Godwin'; 'Hon. Ricky Lyons'; 'Hon. Tim Sanders'
Cc: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

Below please find a proposed response on our plan to Mr. Dew.
Please give me your thoughts.
Thanks for your help.
David

Mr. Dew,

I write in response to Mr. Howard Forman's letter regarding the appropriation for the foreclosure and economic recovery initiative. I am providing feedback on behalf of the Third Judicial Circuit. The seven clerks of our circuit, our court administrator, and I had a conference call to discuss our plan and we are in agreement on this plan.

We plan to use the Court Administration portion of the appropriation for temporary staff (1 case manager and 1 secretary) to work in conjunction with the clerks to review cases, identify the ones that need to be dismissed, follow up on cases with no activity, send notices and correspondence as needed, and set status conferences as deemed appropriate before the assigned judge.

The additional case management will result in more work by our clerks, such as pulling files more frequently, increased filing, etc. The \$24k is insufficient for additional positions in all seven clerks' offices. The clerks have requested that their

portion be use to pay over time to employees, related costs and postage. We plan to work as closely as possible to comply with the initiative goals

Please let me know if you need additional information, or you may contact our court administrator, Sondra Lanier, at 386-362-1017 or lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org.

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 11:52 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Cc: Greg Cowan
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Hi Sondra,

Just a reminder, please send the plan this afternoon so we can include it in our CCOC packet for Monday's meeting.

Thanks,

John

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 2:28 PM
To: John Dew
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

I was wrong. This week is the judges' meeting, so the meeting with the clerks must be the next week. We will get a plan to you by Friday afternoon anyway though.

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:38 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks Sondra.

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:03 AM
To: John Dew
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

John,

Judge Fina will be meeting with all of the clerks at lunch on Friday. We should be able to report back to you that afternoon without a problem.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: John Dew [mailto:JohnDew@flccoc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:02 AM

To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Good Morning Judge Fina.

While I understand you were out of the office last week, I am just checking back with you on the progress concerning the earlier request for information. Would it be possible for your office to provide the information prior to 5pm on Friday, June 11th? We have a CCOC Executive Council meeting on Monday, June 14th to vote on a plan for distributing budget authority for Clerks to help in the foreclosure recovery plan and need information from your office to help. We then plan on meeting with Legislative staff on the 16th to present our plan.

We appreciate your help.

Thanks,

John

From: John Dew
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: fina.david@jud3.flcourts.org
Cc: Kristine Slayden; schneider.mille@jud3.flcourts.org; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

Please find attached a request from Clerk Howard Forman, Chair of the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, for your assistance. The Corporation is responsible for determining the amount of resources to provide to Clerks for the purpose of helping move backlogged foreclosure cases. Please call me at (850) 386-2223 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

John Dew
CCOC Executive Director

Sondra M. Lanier

From: David W. Fina
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:22 AM
To: 'P. DeWitt Cason'; 'Hon. Annie Mae Murphy'; 'Hon. Barry Baker'; 'Hon. Dana Johnson'; 'Hon. Greg Godwin'; 'Hon. Ricky Lyons'; 'Hon. Tim Sanders'
Cc: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Response to John Dew

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Thanks for your help.
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Please let me know if you need additional information, or you may contact our court administrator, Sondra Lanier, at 386-362-1017 or lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org.

Sondra M. Lanier

From: ricky lyons <rnclerk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 12:56 PM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Re: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

While I am thinking about it please change my email to rlyons@lafayetteclerk.com.
Thanks,
Ricky

From: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
To: rnclerk@yahoo.com
Sent: Wed, June 9, 2010 11:18:56 AM
Subject: RE: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

Thanks Ricky.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

From: rnclerk@yahoo.com [mailto:rnclerk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 11:16 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: Re: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

One of us will try to call in. Ricky Lyons

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: "Sondra M. Lanier" <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Date: Wed, 9 Jun 2010 10:14:02 -0400
To: <pdcaison@columbiaclerk.com>; <djohnson@dixieclerk.com>; <hamiltonclerk@flcfn.net>;
<rnclerk@yahoo.com>; <tsanders@madisonclerk.com>; <barryb@suwclerk.org>; <cmock@taylorclerk.com>
Cc: David W. Fina<Fina.David@jud3.flcourts.org>; Millicent A.
Schneider<schneider.millie@jud3.flcourts.org>
Subject: Conference Call Regarding Foreclosure Backlog

Good morning.

As you know, Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Funding has been made available statewide in order to address the foreclosure backlog in the courts. According to the numbers provided to us by the Office of the State Courts Administrator, our circuit has a backlog of 1,325 cases. The backlog was calculated by subtracting the number of dispositions from the number of filings from 2006-2007 through 2009-2010, and the target reduction set for our circuit is 822 cases.

Our circuit has received funding for an OPS case manager and a secretary, and we will be allowed to bring these positions on starting July 1. According to information distributed at the TCBC meeting on Friday, there is \$24,077.72 earmarked for clerks in our circuit. We are supposed to provide information about a coordinated plan to the CCOC and OSCA by Friday afternoon, so we need to figure out how we can use our positions and the clerks' allocation collaboratively to address the backlog and meet our target reduction. Once we have met our reduction, we can request approval from the TCBC for the OPS staff to begin addressing small claims (\$5,001 – \$15,000) and/or contract/indebtedness cases.

Judge Fina has asked me to arrange a conference call to discuss this, so we have scheduled a call for 2:00 this afternoon. Please let us know if you are available. If you can attend, please call 850-487-8439. The conference code is 850151, and that should be entered and followed by #.

Thanks for your flexibility in working with us on such short notice.

Sondra Lanier

Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: Sondra M. Lanier <lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 9:47 AM
To: Trial Court Administrators
Subject: Foreclosure Case Management

Good morning. I'm sure that my esteemed colleagues are ahead of me on this, so would someone please share your plan? We have a conference call with our clerks this afternoon and I am working on my proposal.

Sondra Lanier
Trial Court Administrator
Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
(386)362-1017 Live Oak
(386)362-2658 Fax

Sondra M. Lanier

From: John Dew <JohnDew@flccoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:38 AM
To: Sondra M. Lanier
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

Thanks Sondra.

From: Sondra M. Lanier [mailto:lanier.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:03 AM
To: John Dew
Cc: David W. Fina
Subject: RE: Foreclosures

John,

Judge Fina will be meeting with all of the clerks at lunch on Friday. We should be able to report back to you that afternoon without a problem.

Sondra Lanier
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Third Judicial Circuit
(386)758-2163 Lake City
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We appreciate your help.

Thanks,

John

From: John Dew
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 5:05 PM
To: fina.david@jud3.flcourts.org

Cc: Kristine Slayden; schneider.millie@jud3.flcourts.org; williams.sondra@jud3.flcourts.org
Subject: Foreclosures

Good Afternoon Judge Fina.

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CCOC Executive Director

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