

1 Rule 3-301. Court administrators.

2 Intent:

3 To establish the duties, responsibilities, and authority of the administrators of the
4 courts.

5 Applicability:

6 This rule shall apply to all persons who serve in an administrative support services
7 capacity for courts of record and state-employed administrators of courts not of record.

8 Statement of the Rule:

9 (1) General provisions. The following provisions respecting administrative duties,
10 responsibilities, and authority shall govern the conduct of administrative matters of the
11 courts of the State.

12 Administrative support services for the judiciary shall be organized into a central
13 office known as the Administrative Office. Local trial court administrative offices shall be
14 established when determined necessary by the Council and shall be known as Offices
15 of the Court Executive.

16 (2) Qualifications. The state court administrator, state level administrators, and court
17 executives shall be selected on the basis of professional ability and experience in the
18 field of public administration and shall possess qualifications for office as may be set
19 forth in the job descriptions and have an understanding of court procedures as well as
20 of the nature and significance of court services.

21 (3) State court administrator.

22 (3)(A) Appointment and tenure. The state court administrator shall be appointed by
23 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court upon majority vote of the Supreme Court and
24 shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and/or the Supreme Court. The administrator
25 shall be removed from office upon majority vote of the Council concurred in by majority
26 vote of the Supreme Court.

27 (3)(B) Duties, responsibilities and authority. Under the general supervision of the
28 presiding officer of the Council and within the policies established by the Council, the
29 state court administrator shall:

30 (3)(B)(i) appoint a deputy court administrator who shall assist the administrator in the
31 performance of his duties and responsibilities;

32 (3)(B)(ii) organize and administer all of the non-judicial activities of the courts;

33 (3)(B)(iii) assign, supervise, and direct the work of the non-judicial officers of the
34 courts including the general supervision of court executives;

35 (3)(B)(iv) implement the standards, policies, and rules established by the Council;

36 (3)(B)(v) formulate and administer a system of personnel administration for the
37 judiciary including but not limited to:

38 (3)(B)(v)(a) establishment of uniform personnel policies;

39 (3)(B)(v)(b) creation and abolishment of positions;

40 (3)(B)(v)(c) establishment of classification schedules;

41 (3)(B)(v)(d) approval of all personnel actions;

42 (3)(B)(v)(e) appointment and removal of employees within the administrator's
43 authority;

44 (3)(B)(vi) prepare, administer, and manage the state judicial budget and establish a
45 fiscal management system including accounting, auditing and procurement procedures;

46 (3)(B)(vii) conduct studies of the business of the courts, including the preparation of
47 recommendations and reports relating to them;

48 (3)(B)(viii) develop uniform procedures for the management of court business;

49 (3)(B)(ix) maintain liaison with governmental and other public and private groups
50 having an interest in the administration of the courts;

51 (3)(B)(x) call and appoint judges of courts of record to serve temporarily as Court of
52 Appeals, District Court or Juvenile Court judges as necessary;

53 (3)(B)(xi) consistently with the provisions of this Code, schedule trials or court
54 sessions, assign judges within courts and throughout the state, reassign cases to
55 judges, and change the county for trial of a case if parties do not object, as necessary;

56 (3)(B)(xii) organize and administer a program of continuing judicial and non-judicial
57 education;

58 (3)(B)(xiii) establish and manage a court information system;

59 (3)(B)(xiv) establish and manage a court facility program;

60 (3)(B)(xv) provide staff support for the judicial evaluation program;

61 (3)(B)(xvi) serve as secretariat to all judicial nominating commissions;

62 (3)(B)(xvii) approve and execute all leases, contracts, or other documents on behalf
63 of the judiciary;

64 (3)(B)(xviii) provide technical assistance to the courts upon request or as necessary;

65 (3)(B)(xix) develop policies regarding the maintenance, retention and disposition of
66 court records;

67 (3)(B)(xx) serve as public information officer for the courts;

68 (3)(B)(xxi) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the presiding officer of
69 the Council.

70 (4) State level administrators.

71 (4)(A) Appointment, supervision and evaluation.

72 (4)(A)(i) The state court administrator shall appoint an Appellate, District, Juvenile,
73 and Justice Court administrator with the concurrence of the Board which each serves.

74 (4)(A)(ii) In the event of a vacancy among these positions, the state court
75 administrator shall assume the responsibilities of the office or delegate such
76 responsibilities to another staff member until the vacancy is filled.

77 (4)(A)(iii) Each state level administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the state court
78 administrator.

79 (4)(A)(iv) Performance evaluations of the state level administrators shall be
80 conducted by the state court administrator in consultation with the chair of the
81 appropriate Board.

82 (4)(A)(v) The state court administrator shall supervise the daily activities of the state
83 level administrators.

84 (4)(B) Duties and responsibilities.

85 (4)(B)(i) Render assistance and support to the state court administrator in the
86 performance of his duties.

87 (4)(B)(ii) Serve as staff to the appropriate Board.

88 (4)(B)(iii) Under the direction of the state court administrator, supervise and conduct
89 performance evaluations of court executives.

90 (4)(B)(iv) Develop and manage the state budget of the court including expenditures,
91 accounting, and procurement.

92 (4)(B)(v) Conduct the planning and project development for the court.

93 (4)(B)(vi) Serve as liaison to the education program for the court.

94 (4)(B)(vii) Act as intermediary between the Board and the Council.

95 (4)(B)(viii) Meet with the judges of the local courts at least annually, for purposes of
96 communication and information dissemination.

97 (4)(B)(ix) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the state court
98 administrator or the Board.

99 (5) Court executives.

100 (5)(A) Appointment, supervision and evaluation.

101 (5)(A)(i) The court executives shall be appointed by the state court administrator
102 after consultation with the state level administrator and with the concurrence of the
103 presiding judge. The court executives shall serve at the pleasure of the state court
104 administrator.

105 (5)(A)(ii) Under the direction of the state court administrator, the state level
106 administrators, with the local presiding judge, shall develop annually a performance plan
107 for the court executives. At the conclusion of each year, the state level administrator
108 shall consult with the presiding judge in the preparation of a performance evaluation of
109 the court executive.

110 (5)(A)(iii) The court executive shall coordinate with the presiding judge(s) and the
111 Administrative Office the use of annual leave.

112 (5)(A)(iv) The court executive shall participate in special projects, attend staff
113 meetings, submit reports, and fulfill other responsibilities as necessary for the
114 administration of the courts as directed by the state level administrator.

115 (5)(B) Duties and responsibilities. Pursuant to this Code and under the direction of
116 the state level administrator and the presiding judge, the court executive is responsible
117 for the day-to-day supervision of the non-judicial administration of the courts. Such
118 duties include but are not limited to:

119 (5)(B)(i) hiring and supervision of staff other than judges or court commissioners;

120 (5)(B)(ii) development and management of budget;

121 (5)(B)(iii) planning and management of facilities;

122 (5)(B)(iv) development, maintenance and coordination of intergovernmental
123 relations;

124 (5)(B)(v) transmission of information to the Boards and the Administrative Office and
125 the distribution of minutes from the Council and Board meetings to individual judges;

126 (5)(B)(vi) implementation and management of the court calendar as directed by this
127 Code and local rule;

128 (5)(B)(vii) development and management of court security plans;

129 (5)(B)(viii) service as secretariat for local administrative court meetings;

130 (5)(B)(ix) development and implementation of records management systems;

131 (5)(B)(x) local public information; and

132 (5)(B)(xi) other duties as assigned by the presiding judge and the state level
133 administrator.

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