



Ad Hoc Committee on High Volume Case Filings

Hon. Charles Stormont, Chair

May 6, 2026

12:00 – 1:00

Hybrid: WebEx & Judicial Council Room – Matheson Courthouse

1. Welcome

Judge Stormont opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

- Approval of past meeting minutes is deferred to the next meeting.

3. Old Business: Launch of Steering Committee

- Judge Petit and Judge Cornish are co-chairing the Steering Committee. Other membership are court stakeholders and several members of this committee.
- The Steering Committee is tasked with administrative and policy. This committee can recommend changes to the procedural rules.
- Nick noted that this committee is already a public committee consistent with rules committees.
- There was some discussion on the differences between administrative and procedural rules and their overlaps.
- Judge Cornish suggested the steering committee would generate a minimally deliverable product, so the new division of the district court is up and running by the required time, but suggested that bells and whistles be deferred until the commissioners and staff for that division are in place. She suggested being thoughtful about which procedural rules would be appropriate to adopt now and which would be better to address later. One idea is to suspend discovery by a rule change now but to suspend any changes to the 10-day summons to a later point, after the new court division is running.
- Judge Stormont noted that the 10-day summons is a source of significant confusion and is also a key component to direct people towards non-court options to resolve matters at lower cost. He offered one suggestion of using one form of summons, with the standard 21-30 day answer period, but delaying the

filing fee until there was a return of summons. pay the money. Quinn noted the golden opportunity that exists between the time of service via a constable and when the creditors pay the filing fee. He also noted the importance of having language in the summons to direct debtors to call to discuss the debt and various options to resolve the matter without further court proceedings. Keri and Samantha noted the need to resolve cases is filed and that is not followed by a filing fee or documents to close the case. Once the filing is made, there are court resources used. Other cases can be filed and then closed at the 120-day mark, but without the return of the filing fee.

- Judge Cornish suggested a cost comparison be prepared of the cost of filing all cases but without the filing fee versus the cost of building the new repository for cases using the 10-day summons. There was some discussion of the percentage of cases started via a 10-day summons that are actually filed. The repository discussed earlier had a start up cost of about \$216,000. An advantage to using the actual filing, but delayed filing fee, would be that a MyCase case could be opened, allowing the answers be filed through that platform. There was some discussion of past efforts to extend the answer deadline, consistent with a federal court practice, and the public comments received in response to that effort. Samantha will put together a workgroup of clerical staff to get a cost comparison on this. A prior effort to defer the filing fee was also considered. The result of that work was that a legislative fix was needed at that time, which may be something to check. Keri noted some feasibility examples for greater automation on the court operations side via the current expungement automation program.

4. New Business: Procedural Rules

- A current version of draft procedural rules for debt collection were sent prior to the meeting by google doc. These start with what Judge Stormont proposed at the outset of this committee but have been updated in response to the various discussions.
- Quinn noted the opportunities presented by suspending discovery and eliminating initial disclosures. Janine also noted that could be helpful. Judge Cornish noted that the steering committee may be contemplating that all discovery is suspended until the initial hearing, in order to allow that hearing and anytime before it as a time to talk and reach a settlement.

5. Action Items

Review the draft rules circulated by google doc/