



## **Ad Hoc Committee on High Volume Case Filings**

Hon. Charles Stormont, Chair

July 15, 2026 – Minutes

12:00 – 1:00

Hybrid: Judicial Council Room & WebEx

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### **1. Welcome**

- Judge Stormont opened the meeting.

### **2. Approval of Prior Minutes**

Meeting minutes from July 1 meeting were approved and will be posted on the court's website.

### **3. Update from S.B. 270 Steering Committee**

- Rule drafting for the Code of Judicial Administration is underway to allow the commissioners to do their work.
- Rules will be needed on how to preserve the ability to object to a commissioner decision or recommendation because of the constitutional limits on commissioner authority.
- Process flowcharts will be presented at the next Judicial Council meeting.
- The definition of "debt" is modeled in part on the definition used in FDCPA, and there is a cap on the dollar amount for cases assigned to this division.
- There may be modifications once the commissioners have been in place for some time.

### **4. Flowcharts**

- Samantha presented process flowcharts developed by the Steering Committee. One is for the debt collection actions. The other is for eviction actions. These will be presented at the next Judicial Council meeting, July 22, and feedback from this committee is invited by Monday, July 20.
- The group discussed which parts of the cases stay with the district court

judge and which moved to the commissioners. There was also some discussion of who signs the orders and where the commissioner makes recommendations.

## **5. Procedural Rules**

- There was consensus that in debt collection cases, discovery and other matters should be stayed until an initial hearing and mediation. There are some creditors firms in the state who refuse to mediate; a rule and some stakeholder engagement could help. Having volunteer mediators or counsel early in would likely help the process to front-end resolution.
- Tonya noted the need for some additional disclosures, via a Complaint Plus or other disclosures about medical debt. To have an effective mediation, the parties would need to know more about the debt in order to meaningfully participate. There was some discussion on what could be attached and what there may be privacy protections for. The pros and cons of using redactions were considered.
- There was some discussion of whether any rule should require disclosures of the use of AI, as used in some district courts via orders. Maryt noted there may be a shift developing around the country away from that model which can be another barrier for self-represented litigants.
- Judge Stormont noted that in evictions, a Complaint Plus model is already used via the mandatory attachments.
- The group discussed the use of request for admissions as the standard type of discovery, and that is usually only in difficult cases.
- There was a request to convene a full meeting to discuss the Complaint Plus and what would be required. As discussed previously, the Complaint Plus seems like it could work as long as the preparation on the front end does not eclipse attorney's fees and costs such that the costs outweigh the benefits of the pleading.
- The group continues to lean towards one type of summons with a delayed filing fee, not the ten-day summons.

## **6. Action Items**

- Next meeting is July 29. Judge Stormont would like to hear any more feedback at the next meeting about the minimum level of discovery.
- We may discuss at the next meeting whether to assemble rule subcommittees to keep the two sets of rules on track for completion by September's deadline for the supreme court.
- Samantha requested feedback on the two flowcharts by July 20. The flowcharts will circulate by email after today's meeting.
- An updated set of procedural rules will circulate.