

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

### **SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is committed to a court system which is fair, accessible, efficient, and accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Court as a public institution to ensure that it effectively meets the needs of the citizens which it serves; and

**WHEREAS**, the structure and procedures of the West Virginia Judicial System have not been subject to a thorough, critical examination since the "Judicial Reorganization Amendment" of 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, transformations in the social and cultural landscape in the ensuing twenty years have dramatically changed the nature of the problems which the court system is being asked to resolve;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that the Chief Justice appoint a Commission on the Future of the West Virginia Judicial System and direct that it:

- (1) Examine the trends, both internal and external to the court system, which are affecting the role of the court as an institution and the delivery of its services;
- (2) Assess the performance of the court system in light of established standards of fairness, accessibility, timeliness, and accountability;
- (3) Identify the strengths upon which to build as well as the obstacles to overcome to enable the court system to improve its performance;
- (4) Make recommendations as to structural, organizational, and procedural changes that will ensure a just, effective, responsive, and efficient court system into the next century; and
- (5) Develop a general plan to implement the recommendations; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in this endeavor the Commission consider the experiences and perspectives not only of the judicial officers and others who work within the system, but also those individuals, organizations, and agencies that are served by the court system; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Commission submit its deliberations and recommendations to the Supreme Court of Appeals in the form of a final report by December 1, 1998.

ENTER: OCTOBER 2, 1997