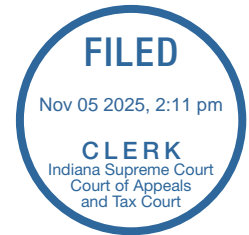


In the Indiana Supreme Court

Cause No. 25S-MS-288



Order on Final Recommendations Made by the Commission on Indiana's Legal Future

The Commission on Indiana's Legal Future, [established by this Court on April 4, 2024](#), submitted its final report on June 30, 2025. The report contains fifteen recommendations in addition to the twenty-seven initial recommendations provided in [the Commission's interim report](#) last year. The Court commends the members of the Commission and its work groups on their exceptional efforts.

The final report was posted for public comment from July 23, 2025, through August 29, 2025. The Court has reviewed the recommendations and public comments, discussed the recommendations with the Commission's co-chairs and Court staff, and now makes the following determinations regarding each of the fifteen recommendations:

Final Recommendations

- a. Ongoing Oversight of Legal Futures Initiatives.** The Court agrees with Recommendation (a) and directs the Office of Judicial Administration's Office of Innovation, in collaboration with other stakeholders in OJA and the legal profession, to maintain oversight of initiatives aimed at addressing Indiana's legal services shortage. Additionally, the Court directs OJA to establish a working group within an appropriate committee to help lead and support efforts to encourage access to law schools and the legal profession.
- b. Funding for Scholarships.** The Court supports Recommendation (b) and encourages interested stakeholders to continue seeking funding for the scholarship program established by House Enrolled Act 1515 (2025).
- c. Public Service Pathway Pilot.** The Court supports the concepts in Recommendation (c) and directs OJA's Office of Admissions and Continuing Education to establish a Pathways to Admission Pilot Task Force, which shall include experienced attorneys in areas of high legal needs as well as representatives from a legal services organization that provides legal assistance to persons of limited means, public defender offices, prosecuting attorney offices, the Indiana Department of Child Services, and Indiana's law schools. The Task Force shall provide detailed parameters for a public service pathway pilot for law licensure, including necessary rule changes, by July 30, 2026, for implementation in 2027.

- d. Public Service Loan Repayment Assistance.** The Court supports Recommendation (d) and directs OJA to collaborate with the Indiana Bar Foundation to consider ways to consolidate management of the loan repayment programs proposed in the Commission's Interim Report, the John R. Justice Program, and the Foundation's existing loan repayment programs.
- e. Implement Advanced Courtroom Technologies.** The Court approves Recommendation (e) and directs the Technology Working Group of the Court's Innovation Committee to explore these concepts and propose pilot projects or initiatives.
- f. Support the Growth of Legal Education.** The Court agrees with Recommendation (f) and the value of these initiatives. The Court directs OJA's Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach to collaborate with the working group established in section (a), the Community Relations Committee of the Indiana Judicial Conference, the bar associations of Indiana, and other stakeholders, to explore and implement proposals aimed at highlighting the importance of legal education.
- g. Amend Small Claims Limits and Procedural Rules.** The Court supports Recommendation (g) as an exercise of the General Assembly's policy-making authority. And the Court directs the Limited Jurisdiction & Traffic Law Committee of Indiana's Judicial Conference to determine what court rules may require amendment to better effectuate the purpose of small claims proceedings if the statutory small claims limits are raised.
- h. Regionalize Judicial and Bar Association Resources.** The Court agrees with the ideas in Recommendation (h). The Judicial Conference of Indiana's newly created Committee on Judicial Resources is already exploring many of these ideas in support of the General Assembly's responsibility to allocate judicial resources across Indiana. The Court encourages the Indiana State Bar Association to help lead both county-level and local bar associations in exploring ways to regionalize and strengthen the professional connections of Indiana's legal communities.
- i. Advise Practitioners on Alternative Fee Structures.** The Court approves Recommendation (i) and directs OJA's Office of Judicial and Attorney Regulation to issue an advisory opinion on this topic by January 1, 2026.
- j. Create and Support Undergraduate-Law School Pipelines.** The Court supports Recommendation (j) and directs the working group established in section (a) to collaborate with Indiana's law schools and undergraduate institutions to develop and support legal professional pipelines.
- k. Implement Documentation Automation Tools and MyCase Improvements.** The Court approves Recommendation (k) and directs the Technology Working Group to explore these concepts and propose pilot projects or other initiatives.

1. **Informational Videos to Aid Litigants.** The Court supports Recommendation (l) and encourages the Indiana Bar Foundation and Indiana Legal Help, along with other pro bono providers and OJA stakeholders, to develop a library of videos for posting on IndianaLegalHelp.org and related sites.
- m. **Study Use of Clerk Staff.** The Court approves Recommendation (m) and directs the Innovation Committee to collaborate with the Association of Circuit Court Clerks of Indiana and the Strategic Planning Committee of Indiana's Judicial Conference in undertaking this effort.
- n. **Mentorships.** The Court supports Recommendation (n) and encourages the ISBA to explore this proposal and consider incorporating it into existing, successful ISBA mentorship programs.
- o. **Centralize Public Service Job Availability.** The Court supports Recommendation (o) and encourages Indiana's legal professional organizations, such as the ISBA, the Bar Foundation, or Pro Bono Indiana, to collaborate on exploring a one-stop online resource for public service legal internships and career opportunities.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 11/5/2025.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.