



DRAFT

The Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Pro Se Subcommittee

Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Pro Se Subcommittee met on September 28, 2011, at 1:30 p.m., immediately after the meeting of the Board of Directors. The meeting was held at the Orange County Courthouse, 23rd Floor Gene Medina Conference Room, 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. The following members were present: Sharon Bock, Esq., Palm Beach County Clerk, chair; Tom Hall, Clerk, Supreme Court; Karen Nicolai, CPA, Hernando County; and Beth Allman, staff.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 a.m. by Hon. Sharon Bock, Chair

Ms. Bock called the subcommittee to order. She shared with the subcommittee that she felt the subcommittee should be narrowly focused on pro se use of the portal. She noted that the portal already has the A2J software available with the eviction case type defined. She mentioned that one legal aid group has approached both Ms. Nicolai and her asking for funding for software so their clients could e-file. While indigent clients are limited by income, pro se filers are not. There was a general discussion of making the portal available for pro se filers at some point and all felt the A2J software was worthwhile developing further. Hon. Tom Hall felt that prisoners constituted a large portion of pro se filings and it might be prudent to bring the Department of Corrections (DOC) into the conversation. He mentioned that even 3.850 forms could be made electronic. Hon. Karen Nicolai stated that it would take some funding to add to A2J software for the other case types. She proposed that they maybe work with the university law schools or find some grant funding. Ms. Bock noted that at the trial court level that the most commonly filed pro se action was in family law. She offered to do a poll and find out the top five pro se areas. She broke the concepts down into two phases, Phase 1 –A2J or similar concept with inclusion of the appellate case types; Phase 2 – use the FACC Pro Se Committee, as it was not portal-related and could address a broader focus. That might be the area in which the committee could expand the conversation to include DOC and well as other agencies, including administrative agencies.

The subcommittee members decided, that in order to meet the timeline of the portal development, to put the subcommittee work on hold until the portal is ready to accept pro se filings.

The subcommittee adjourned at 2:15 p.m.