

**Summary of Task Force Recommendations; Role of Judicial-Media  
Committee in Implementation**

- 1) *Definition of meeting* – no stated action by the Judicial-Media Committee.
- 2) *Definition of closed session* – no stated action by JMC.
- 3) *Access to public meetings scheduled in court facilities* – no stated action by JMC.
- 4) *Definition of administrative record* – no stated action by JMC.
- 5) *Judges' attendance records* – no stated action by JMC.
- 6) *Judicial performance evaluations* – no stated action by JMC.
- 7) *Complaints received by the Judicial Branch regarding a particular judge* – no stated action by JMC.
- 8) *Retention schedule for administrative records* – no stated action by JMC.
- 9) *Adoption of a policy on access to public records* – no stated action by JMC.
- 10) *Amend the Judicial Branch mission statement* – no stated action by JMC.
- 11) *Post criminal docket information online* – no stated action by JMC.
- 12) *Review Judicial Branch-issued forms in connection with potential identity theft* – no stated action by JMC.
- 13) *Post criminal conviction information online* – no stated action by JMC.
- 14) *Revise procedure on continued sealing of search warrant affidavits* – no stated action by JMC.
- 15) *Revise the procedure on continued sealing of search warrant affidavits* – no stated action by JMC.
- 16) *Permit public access to police reports used in determining probable cause* – no stated action by JMC.
- 17) *Implement policy on handheld scanners* – no stated action by JMC.
- 18) *Access to certain pretrial diversion programs currently sealed upon application* – not endorsed by Justice Borden.

- 19) *Post certain case information regarding pending criminal cases online* – not endorsed by Justice Borden.
- 20) *Availability of competency evaluations* – no stated action by JMC.
- 21) *Access To Alternate Incarceration Assessment Reports* – no stated action by JMC.
- 22) *Non-party intervention to seek or restrict access* – no stated action by JMC.
- 23) *Remote electronic access to court records* – no stated action by JMC.
- 24) *Written policy on administrative waiver of copying fees* – no stated action by JMC.
- 25) *Bulk transfer of information* – no stated action by JMC.
- 26) *Policy on correction of inaccurate information (in a court record)* – no stated action by JMC.
- 27) *Adopt a definition of “media” for purposes of recommendations on access to proceedings* – no stated action by JMC; though please note No. 28.

\*\*28) *Consideration of issues in connection with implementation of the definition of “media.*

“Issues concerning the implementation of this definition shall be considered on an ongoing basis by the Judicial-Media Committee, upon creation of such a committee.”

29) *Expand electronic access to the Supreme and Appellate Courts* – no stated action by JMC.

\*\*30) *Pilot program on media access to criminal proceedings*

“The Judicial Branch should establish a two-year pilot program in a single judicial district in which all types of media coverage of criminal proceedings would be permitted, in accordance with the principles and limitations set forth below.

“The Supreme Court’s Judicial-Media Committee shall be charged with evaluating the pilot program and making recommendations for its expansion. It is anticipated that based on the evaluation of the pilot program, the Superior Court judges will refine and extend the program to other districts. In the absence of any action by the judges, the pilot program will continue to operate in the pilot district.”

(Rest of recommendation is in the task force report, including considerations for choosing a JD, general principles of access, and rules for coverage in pilot programs.)

31) *Coverage of arraignments* – no stated action for JMC.

32) *Media access to Superior Court civil proceedings and trials* – no stated action by JMC.

33) *Record of off-site judicial proceedings* – no stated action by JMC.

34) *Note taking in judicial proceedings* – no stated action by JMC.

**\*\*35) *Establishment of a Judicial-Media Committee***

“A Judicial-Media Committee shall be established in accordance with the principles listed below:

- The goals of the Judicial-Media Committee are to foster and improve better understanding and relationships between the Judicial Branch and the media, both print and electronic, and to discuss and recommend resolutions of problems confronted by the media and the public in gaining access to court proceedings and documents.
- The committee should be operated under the policies governing committees appointed by the Judicial Branch.
- The committee should be chaired by a member of the Supreme Court and a media executive. Membership should include representatives of print and electronic media, judges, members of the state bar associations, a victim representative, and others whose experience and expertise could benefit the committee.
- The committee should be charged to form a quick-response team. Comprised of judges and reporters, structured similarly to the committee known as the “Fire Brigade” that has operated successfully in Massachusetts. The mission of this team is to be available to review questions and disputes over access to judicial proceedings and to recommend a resolution the same day the question is presented.
- The committee should take steps to educate the public on issues relating to access to judicial proceedings.
- The committee should meet on a regular basis.

**\*\*36) *Evaluation of Implementation of Recommendations***

This calls for the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to collect and compile information on the implementation of the task force’s recommendations, including statistical information “concerning coverage of court proceedings. This information should be made publicly available and shared with the Judicial-Media Committee for purposes of ongoing evaluation and education initiatives.”

37) *Judicial Authority* – no stated action by JMC.

38) *Financial Affidavits* – no stated action by JMC.