

II. PLANNING METHOD AND PARTICIPANTS

The Judiciary's planning process is a major Judicial Branch activity involving many people and organizations. It includes:

- The Chief Justice
- The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Division Directors of the AOC
- The Arizona Judicial Council and its subcommittees, which includes the Commission on Technology
- Members of the public
- Presiding judges
- Clerks of the court
- Judges
- Court administrators
- Chief probation officers
- Court staff throughout the state

The planning process emphasizes the alignment of business goals and the IT strategies and projects.

Building on the foundation of former Chief Justices Ruth V. McGregor and Rebecca White Berch, who targeted five main business goals through the Judicial Branch's strategic agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities 2014-2019*, adopted in June 2014 with the ascension of Chief Justice Scott Bales, identifies the following as the Judiciary's goals:

- Promoting Access to Justice;
- Protecting Children, Families, and Communities;
- Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public;
- Enhancing Professionalism within Arizona's Courts; and
- Improving Communications and Community Participation.

The process by which the goals were updated involved stakeholder collaboration as well as meetings with presiding judges, clerks of court, members of the Arizona Judicial Council and key court staff throughout the Judiciary. This agenda focuses on collaboration between courts and communities in the effort to increase public trust in court systems and to sustain confidence that individual rights are being protected and all Arizona citizens are being treated fairly.

This is the nineteenth year that the Judiciary has published a formal information technology plan; each year the strategic IT initiatives have been reassessed and re-prioritized to assure they meet the stated mission and strategic organizational initiatives of the Judiciary. IT initiatives were crafted to support business goals that appear in

Advancing Justice Together: Courts & Communities 2014-2019. The timeline for the development of this IT strategic plan was as follows:

SEPTEMBER 2014
Commission on Technology continued its requirement for only biennial updates from the rural counties and for separating the business drivers update process from the technology updates. COT directed an ad hoc subcommittee to propose a “minimum-effort” update process for Maricopa and Pima courts for use in the plan cycle.
OCTOBER 2014
Previous plans were distributed to the seven counties not updating their strategic plans last year. Representatives from AOC, Maricopa, and Pima proposed an “off-year” minimum effort process and an “on-year” process having a more traditional effort level.
JANUARY 2015
Business input from counties was reviewed and prepared for presentation to Commission on Technology. In addition, project and technical portions of the document were distributed to contacts in the counties for update.
MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2015
Seven updated County Court Information Technology Strategic Plans were submitted to AOC for review and analysis along with the Maricopa and Pima “lite” updates. Staff prepared summaries of the plans for the use of COT members in the annual planning meeting.
JUNE 2015
Commission on Technology members identified project priorities for FY2016. COT also reviewed the revised County Court Information Technology Strategic Plans and “lite” updates submitted. AJC subsequently reviewed the project priorities and approved funding for the strategic priorities recommended by COT.
SEPTEMBER 2015
Commission on Technology approved the Arizona Judicial Branch Information Technology Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 at its September meeting. Following final edits, the plan was submitted to ADOA ASET and JLBC as required by A.R.S. 41-3504(f).

Figure 1 below illustrates the typical processes and timing of the Arizona Judicial Branch Strategic Planning effort.

FIGURE 1. ARIZONA JUDICIAL BRANCH STRATEGIC PLANNING

