

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS SUMMARY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Critical Function</b>	<b>Key Result Area</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Manager(s)</b>
1999	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	By June 30, 2001, reduce median time to disposition of criminal cases from 9 months to 6 months.	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal for the following reasons: 1) it is an unrealistic goal, given our current number of judgeships; 2) the court's new consistency goal will increase the court's efficiency; and 3) the national median time statistic is not statistically significant and changes each year.	
	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	By June 30, 2001, reduce median time to disposition of civil cases from 11 months to 8 months.	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal for the following reasons: 1) it is an unrealistic goal, given our current number of judgeships; 2) the court's new consistency goal will increase the court's efficiency; and 3) the national median time statistic is not statistically significant and changes each year.	

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager(s)
1999 (cont.)	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	<p>Secure Congressional approval for a fourth district judgeship.</p> <p>On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to modify the goal from: "By June 1, 2002, secure Congressional approval for converting the fourth district judgeship from a temporary judgeship to a permanent judgeship."</p>	<p>On January 8, 2009, Representative Lee Terry introduced a bill in the House of Representatives intended to create an additional permanent judgeship for Nebraska. This bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property on February 9, 2009. (See 2009 Federal House Bill 349, 1st Session of the 111th Congress.) On January 9, 2009, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced a bill in the Senate to create and extend temporary district court judgeships for district courts in Nebraska, California, Hawaii, Kansas, and Ohio. (See 2009 Federal Senate Bill 193, 1st Session of the 111th Congress.) These bills joined one filed by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy on May 8, 2007, aimed at restoring Nebraska's temporary judgeship. The bill was co-sponsored by senators from all states that had lost, or were in danger of losing, a temporary judgeship (Nebraska, California, Hawaii, Kansas, and Ohio). The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent and was received by the House on December 5, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (See 2007 Federal Senate Bill 1327 1st Session of the 110th Congress.)</p>	Judge Bataillon

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1999 (cont.)	Records Management	Paperless Filing	Create an opportunity for electronic case filing by June 1, 2001. Pilot program by June 1, 2000.	Goal achieved in 2003.	
	Jury Management	Reduce Non-Utilization of Jurors	Reduce number of jurors not selected or challenged to no more than 25% by June 30, 2000.	Goal achieved in 2005.	
	Administrative Management	Governing Bylaws and Elimination of Duplication	Court will adopt bylaws of governance by January 1, 2001.	Goal achieved. Governance order adopted in 2002 (revised in 2004).	
	Administrative Management	Governing Bylaws and Elimination of Duplication	Reduce duplication in procurement functions and services by January 1, 2000.	Goal achieved. Clerk and Probation began sharing a procurement position in 2000.	
1999 (cont.)	Education	Congressional Delegation	All judges, as a group, will meet with our Congressional delegation by August 2000. By August 2000, at least one judge will meet with each Congressman or Senator and his/her assistant who handles judiciary matters.	Goal achieved. Judges have met their goal of annually meeting with as many members of our Congressional delegation as possible.	

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2000	Administrative Management	Diversity	In three years, 20 percent of the court's staff and chambers' staff, excluding judicial officers, will be drawn from under-represented groups, such as African American, Hispanic, Southeast Asian, or Native American.	The Council set a new diversity goal in 2006.	
	Adjudication and Case Management	Consent Docket	<p>By June 2001, magistrate judges will reach a consent docket of 25 civil cases per magistrate judge and maintain such docket numbers until January 2002, whereupon the goal will be reevaluated.</p> <p>Magistrate judges will take 50 percent of all Rule 11 guilty pleas by January 2001. No judge is obligated, however, to refer his/her Rule 11 guilty pleas to a magistrate judge.</p>	<p>Goal achieved. Magistrate judges placed on wheel in January 2004.</p> <p>Goal achieved. Magistrate judges are now handling more than 50 percent of the guilty pleas for many of the judges.</p>	

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2000 (cont.)	Education	Community Education	Over next two years, the court will sponsor programs on the law for high school students in Omaha, Lincoln and North Platte. The program will be expanded to fifth and sixth graders.	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal because the program is overwhelming for the court and lawyers. The Council agreed that the court should continue to participate in programs that support education, such as the high school mock trials, speaking at schools, tours, etc. The court should track all of its outreach efforts.	
	Investigation and Supervision of Defendants and Convicted Offenders	Alternatives to Detention/ Supervision	By January 2002, the court will contact community organizations to develop two additional alternatives to detention/supervision designed to assist Hispanic defendants.	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal for the following reasons: 1) Pretrial can currently enter into contracts for Hispanic defendants; and 2) there is no need for a separate program.	
	Records Management	Long-Term Storage of Electronic Media	By January 2002, the court will adopt a policy that addresses the following questions: 1) How long do we need to keep electronic data?, 2) How should it be classified, and 3) How should it be preserved/stored?	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal for the following reasons: 1) the AO is in charge of establishing a national policy on the storage of electronic data; and 2) the IT Efficiency Committee will continue to work on its goal of reducing duplication.	

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2002	Administrative Management	Administrative Services	Study the pros and cons of restructuring administrative services (such as information and computer systems, human resources, budgeting, and procurement) across functional lines in the Clerk of the District Court's office, the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office, the Probation Office, and the Pretrial Services Office.	Goal achieved. District Court Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and Pretrial Services Office consolidated administrative services in 2004.	
	Administrative Management	Lincoln Bankruptcy Judge Position	The court will continue to look at filling the Lincoln bankruptcy judge position every year, with the expectation that the position, if not filled earlier, would be filled in January 2006.	Goal achieved in 2006.	
	Administrative Management	Court Reporter Plan	We will develop a plan for court reporters that reflects a judicial commitment to the plan, including the issue of supervision of court reporters.	Goal achieved. Court Reporter Plan adopted by the Nebraska Judicial Council in November 2002.	

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2002 (cont.)	Adjudication and Case Management	Criminal and Civil Dockets	<p>Create a new docket, collapsing the Omaha and Lincoln dockets, for cases in which the State of Nebraska is named a defendant. That docket will be implemented in January 2003. Thus, Omaha judges will draw civil cases that involve the State of Nebraska as a defendant just like Lincoln judges.</p> <p>Study the pros and cons of collapsing the Omaha and Lincoln criminal and civil dockets so that there is only one civil docket and only one criminal docket for both Lincoln and Omaha.</p>	<p>Goal achieved. In January 2003, the Nebraska Docket was created.</p> <p>Goal achieved. In July 2003, the court decided to combine the Omaha and Lincoln civil dockets by expanding the Nebraska Docket to include the following types of cases: 1) civil cases involving the USA as plaintiff; 2) social security appeals; 3) pro se plaintiff cases (excluding § 2255 motions); and 4) bankruptcy appeals.</p>	
	Adjudication and Case Management	Video Conferencing in Criminal Cases	If the law permits, allow the United States Marshals Service to develop a pilot project to allow video conferencing in criminal cases.	Goal abandoned. Study completed in 2003. While the proposal was lawful, the court determined that due to lack of funding, we would take no further action.	

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2002 (cont.)	Jury Management	Parking for Jurors	Provide safe, secure, and convenient parking for court users, most particularly jurors.	Goal achieved. In 2003, specific parking garages were identified and recommended to jurors for their use.	
	Jury Management	One Trial/One Call for Jurors	Study whether we should adopt a "one trial/one call" jury system in which a juror appears in the courthouse only once.	Goal achieved. The court decided that we should not implement a "one day appearance" policy for jurors. However, in the fall of 2002, the judges agreed to excuse jurors after they had served on one jury trial.	

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2003	Administrative Management	Docket and Local Rules Committee	Create committee to: 1) redraft rules; 2) oversee status of rules on a regular basis and suggest amendments; 3) harmonize local rules with standing or general orders; 4) develop and oversee procedures governing the use of magistrate judges; 5) develop procedures for the efficient interaction of the bankruptcy and the district court; and 6) review on a periodic and consistent basis the district court's docket and, where appropriate, suggest changes in procedures, including, but not limited to, assignment procedures.	Goal achieved.	
	Jury Management	North Platte Jurors. Reduce Number of North Platte Sessions.	Reduce North Platte jury sessions from six to four weeks and hold court in North Platte four times per year.	Goal achieved.	

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2003 (cont.)	Administrative Management	Budget	Create Standing Budget Committee	Goal achieved. A Standing Budget Committee was created in 2003. The purpose of the committee is to oversee the budgets of the Clerk of the District Court, the Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office.	
	Administrative Management	Fifth District Judge	Seek authorizing legislation for a fifth judgeship and to see that authorizing legislation is passed no later than November 1, 2007, with the understanding that the fifth judgeship be in Lincoln unless the state of the docket clearly establishes it should be elsewhere.	On August 30, 2006, the Nebraska Judicial Council voted to eliminate the goal because the court does not have enough cases to warrant the appointment of a fifth judgeship.	
2006	Administrative Management	Consistency and Uniformity	By July 2008, all operating procedures and policies will be the same throughout the entire district court so that members of the bar, public, and staff will experience only minimal procedural differences among the judges of this court.	Goal abandoned. The Consistency Committee was disbanded on July 25, 2008. As part of the committee's work, judges' practices and recusals and summary judgment pages were created on the external Web pages.  The clerk's office will continue to maintain Web pages. Consistency issues will be referred to the Nebraska Judicial Council.	

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2006 (cont.)	Administrative Management	Diversity	By July 2008, we will increase the representation of racial and ethnic groups in the court's applicant pool to 33 1/3%, and by July 2009, we will increase the representation of racial and ethnic groups among court employees, including chambers, to 20%.	Judges abandoned applicant-pool portion of goal in July 2009.  As for September 30, 2008, the representation of racial and ethnic groups among court employees is 11.5%.  See <a href="#">Diversity Goal Log</a> .	Judge Gossett Pam Jedlicka Laura Garcia-Hein
2007*	Administrative Management	Courtroom Technology**	By January 25, 2008, we will have a strategic plan in place to upgrade or replace all Omaha, Lincoln, and North Platte courtroom technology equipment.	Goal achieved. The Nebraska Judicial Council adopted the Courtroom Technology Strategic Upgrade/Replacement Plan on April 25, 2008.	Wayne Beck
	Administrative Management	Courtroom Technology - Training**	By January 25, 2008, we will have a strategic plan in place to assess, develop, and deliver courtroom technology training for internal and external stakeholders on all existing and newly-defined courtroom technology equipment.	Goal achieved. The Nebraska Judicial Council adopted the Courtroom Technology Training Plan on April 25, 2008.	Luta Pleiss

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2009	All	Stewardship of Court Resources	How do we position ourselves to use resources (people/funds) effectively to meet the demands for court services in a period of economic decline?	Goal eliminated. On January 20, 2012, the Nebraska Judicial Council agreed to eliminate this goal as a strategic plan goal because stewardship is a continuing and integral part of court management.	Judge Smith Camp
	Jury Management	Improve Juror Services	How can we improve the delivery of juror services (i.e., improving the diversity of jury pools and maximizing juror utilization)?	Goal eliminated. On January 20, 2012, the Judicial Council agreed to eliminate improved jury diversity and utilization as a strategic plan goal. The court will continue to maintain the spirit of the goal by stressing the importance of jury service to the community.	Judge Thalken
	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	How can we encourage timely disposition of cases (criminal/civil)?	Goal eliminated. On January 20, 2012, the Judicial Council agreed to eliminate the utilization of magistrate judges as a strategic plan goal. Judge Gossett will continue to provide the Judicial Council a written report on the utilization of magistrate judges at each Judicial Council meeting.	Judge Gossett