POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

The Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review could consider the following recommendations:

- Require that the courts' annual budget provide line items for each of the 11 divisions within the Administrative Office of the Courts. Currently there is no breakdown of spending on divisions within AOC. Other executive branch agencies, such as the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, break out spending on different components of its administrative spending, such as Executive Office, Public Affairs and Information Technology.
- Require Administrative Office of the Courts to annually provide an Operating and Expense Schedule. An O&E Schedule depicts spending trends on items such as travel and outside consultants. Executive branch agencies annually provide these with the budget; the AOC currently does not.
- Require that the courts' annual budget provide more detail regarding the Trial Court Trust Fund. There is no breakdown in the budget depicting spending on items such as security or information technology, whose aggregate costs total more than \$1 billion annually. The AOC could coordinate with the Budget Committees and Department of Finance to agree on the proper line items.
- Require legislative notice for intraschedule transfers. Currently there is no requirement paralleling executive branch agencies that the courts report transferring monies among different schedules in the same fund. Executive branch agencies are required to report any transfer in excess of \$200,000 or 10 percent of the amount appropriated in the item to the Budget Committees in each house of the Legislature and the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The Legislature could ask that the Judicial Council follow the same procedure.
- Require that the Judicial Council's next annual report regarding Information
 Technology projects provide total estimated costs of the CCMS project and a
 funding plan. The AOC should develop a total cost for CCMS, including
 anticipated costs to law enforcement and other agencies, and a plan for financing the
 final phases of CCMS.