

## CIRCUIT COURT STAFF ATTORNEY COMPETENCIES

### ***Strategic Plan Key Philosophical Values:***

**FAIRNESS & IMPARTIALITY** – We will interpret and apply the rule of law in a manner that is unbiased and that provides equal protection to all who seek our services.

**RESPECT** – We will encourage respect for the law, the administration of justice, and the people we interact and work with each day. We will promote and exemplify high standards of cooperation and courtesy to those within and outside the Unified Judicial System (UJS).

**COMPETENCY** – We will continue to develop our technical and academic knowledge. We will strive for a standard of excellence in all we do through accurate, timely, reliable, consistent, and efficient performance.

**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE** – We will uphold the principle that our courts should not be subject to improper influence from the other branches of government, or from private or partisan interests.

**INTEGRITY** – We will conduct business in accordance with the highest ethical and legal standards. We will strive to maintain a reputation of honesty, reliability, and trustworthiness in all our activities.

**SERVICE** – We will provide equal access to the judicial process, to anyone who needs our services. We will offer assistance, act with sincerity in our activities, and encourage cooperative efforts to achieve our mission.

### ***Competencies:***

**PROFESSIONALISM** – Is truthful and dependable, accepts responsibility for actions, maintains confidentiality, acts respectfully towards others, and demonstrates commitment to the organization.

- a) **Integrity** – Is truthful, treats others fairly, and firmly adheres to ethical principles.
- b) **Responsibility** – Accepts responsibility for own actions and for achieving expected results.
- c) **Attendance** – Is punctual and maintains a responsible work record.
- d) **Dependability** – Follows through on duties and commitments, and completes work on time.
- e) **Confidentiality** – Protects confidential information and maintains professional boundaries.
- f) **Commitment** – Demonstrates commitment to the organization and the profession.
- g) **Respect** – Respects, cooperates, and communicates openly with coworkers; follows supervisor's requests; and complies with policies and procedures.
- h) **Ethical** – Demonstrates ethical resolve and confronts unethical behavior in others.
- i) **Honest** – Serves as a role model for honesty and encourages honesty in others.
- j) **Credible** – Is recognized as knowledgeable in area of expertise and keeps current with developments in area of expertise.

**COMMUNICATION** – Listens attentively to others and clearly conveys information and ideas.

- a) **Writes effectively** – Writes in a clear, organized, and engaging manner for the intended audience.
- b) **Speaks effectively** – Speaks clearly and concisely, and engages others in conversations.
- c) **Listens attentively** – Listens attentively to others without interrupting and conveys understanding.

- d) **Delivers effective presentations** – Develops and delivers presentations that are impactful or persuasive with their intended audience.
- e) **Keeps others informed** – Passes on appropriate information in a timely manner to others who should be kept informed.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** – Treats internal and external customers courteously and is responsive to their needs.

- a) **Identifies needs** – Talks to customers and listens to them to identify their needs or concerns.
- b) **Addresses needs** – Responds promptly to customers' needs or requests.
- c) **Acts courteously** – Provides courteous and professional customer service at all times.
- d) **Follows-up with customers** – Follows up with customers to ensure needs are met and to identify opportunities for improvement.

**ADAPTABILITY** – Adjusts effectively to changing, new, or different situations at work.

- a) **Accepts change** – Accepts changes in duties or the work environment and tries to understand the full impact of change in order to effectively adapt to it.
- b) **Modifies behavior** – Readily modifies behavior or tactics in response to changes at work.
- c) **Views change positively** – Reacts positively to change, focuses on the beneficial aspects of change, and speaks positively about it to others.

**ASSERTIVENESS** – Demonstrates self-confidence and takes bold action when needed.

- a) **Demonstrates self-confidence** – Demonstrates confidence in own ability and judgment.
- b) **Asserts self** – Confronts issues directly and shares viewpoints openly with others.
- c) **Works independently** – Completes duties without being overly reliant upon others for direction or support.

**COMPOSURE** – Remains focused in stressful situations and keeps emotions under control at all times.

- a) **Demonstrates self-control** – Restrains emotional impulses when provoked or when faced with opposition or hostility.
- b) **Tolerates stress** – Thinks clearly and acts calmly during crises and stressful situations.
- c) **Calms others** – Stays positive and calms others during crises and stressful situations.

**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT** – Deals effectively with others in antagonistic situations and constructively manages or resolves conflict.

- a) **Recognizes / prevents conflict** – Recognizes potentially harmful conflict situations and promptly intervenes to prevent escalation.
- b) **Clarifies the situation** – Collects information from relevant sources to understand the causes and sources of conflict.
- c) **Remains neutral** – Objectively views conflict from all sides and stays focused on resolving the conflict.
- d) **Resolves conflict** – Resolves conflict in a way that addresses the issue, dissipates the conflict, and maintains the relationship.

**DECISIVENESS** – Exercises sound judgment when making decisions and takes prompt, decisive action.

- a) **Evaluates alternatives** – Considers the impact and implications of various alternatives before reaching a final decision.
- b) **Makes timely decisions** – Confidently makes timely decisions in ambiguous situations.
- c) **Demonstrates commitment to decisions** – Displays little to no hesitation when acting on decisions made, holds firmly to them, and accepts responsibility for outcomes.

**INFLUENCE** – Persuades others to support an idea or take a desired action.

- a) **Adjusts personal approach** – Gains an understanding of the audience that one is attempting to influence, and uses that knowledge to adapt one's influence strategies.
- b) **Obtains buy-in** – Establishes credibility and gains support for and commitment to ideas.
- c) **Inspires action** – Communicates a sound rationale and presents compelling information to motivate others to take action.

**INITIATIVE** – Displays a high level of effort and commitment towards completing assignments and goals.

- a) **Works diligently** – Maintains a consistent, high level of productivity.
- b) **Perseveres** – Persists when facing unexpected obstacles or setbacks.
- c) **Initiates work** – Independently identifies what needs to be done and does it.
- d) **Makes improvements** – Proactively identifies areas to improve and recommends changes.
- e) **Achieves goals** – Exerts a high level of effort and commitment towards achieving goals.

**ORGANIZATIONAL AWARENESS** – Understands the culture, issues, constraints, and power relationships within the UJS and judicial branch and uses this knowledge to get things done quickly and effectively.

- a) **Maintains internal awareness** – Understands the UJS's history, ongoing issues, and unspoken constraints and takes them into account before taking action.
- b) **Understands relationships** – Recognizes the UJS's power relationships and alliances/rivalries, and effectively uses that knowledge to get things done.
- c) **Maintains external awareness** – Maintains awareness of external issues and events and their potential impact on the UJS.

**PROBLEM SOLVING** – Analyzes problems and makes sound recommendations.

- a) **Recognizes problems and opportunities** – Recognizes potential problems, issues, or challenges and determines whether action is needed.
- b) **Gathers information** – Identifies and collects information needed to understand and analyze problems; weighs the relevancy and accuracy of the information.
- c) **Interprets information** – Integrates information from a variety of sources and detects trends, associations, and cause-effect relationships.
- d) **Generates / evaluate alternative actions** – Identifies alternative solutions to problems and identifies/weights the pros and cons of each.

**RELATIONSHIP BUILDING** – Works to build and maintain networks and friendly relationships with people who can, or might someday be able to, provide information, assistance, or support.

- a) **Identifies needs** – Identifies the need for relationships, both in and outside the organization, that may be beneficial now or in the future.
- b) **Initiates relationships** – Proactively works at building or maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with others.
- c) **Utilizes relationships** – Uses relationships to share and gather information, seek input into problems, and identify opportunities.