

Appendix A

Original FJC Proposal for an Event-Based Case-Weighting Study: Table of Design Components

(Appendix B of Agenda Item 3A from the December 2002
Meeting of the Subcommittee on Judicial Statistics)

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Appendix B

Development of District Court Case Weights Using an Event-Based Approach

Calculation Components

Event Categories	Source of Time / Burden Information	Source of Incidence Information and Docket Markers
(A) Trials and Other Evidentiary Proceedings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial hours and days reported on the JS-10 (page 1) • Compute average times directly from reported data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court administrative databases (ICMS or CM/ECF) • Identify docket events that document the occurrence of an evidentiary hearing or trial • Examples: entry indicating voir dire was conducted, entry indicating a jury or bench trial was held
(B) Nontrial Proceedings (Non-Evidentiary Hearings, Conferences, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nontrial hours and proceeding counts by category reported on the JS-10 (page 2) • Compute average times for supervised release and probation revocation hearings directly from reported times and counts (available starting in FY 2001) • Compute an event weight for other nontrial proceeding categories (e.g., arraignments/pleas, pretrial conferences) from remaining reported time and counts using multiple regression techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court administrative databases (ICMS or CM/ECF) • Identify docket events that document the occurrence of a non-evidentiary proceeding • Examples: Minutes of a motion hearing filed, reference to status conference held, notice that plea was taken
(C) Non-Proceeding Case-Related Activity (e.g., reading briefs, reviewing case files, research, conferring, writing orders and opinions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indications of non-proceeding time spent by judges are not captured in any standard reporting. Estimates of time spent in these targeted activities can be obtained using this two-step approach: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ask judges to complete a written survey providing their estimate of the average time spent in the described tasks by major case type categories (prior to receiving the survey judges will be notified that it is coming and will be asked to pay particular attention to the time they spend in these targeted activities; this will help to focus the estimates on actual recent experience rather than general recollections) (2) ask a group of judges that represent a cross section of courts to review the estimates obtained from the written survey and using iterative-feedback (i.e., Delphi) group techniques arrive at a consensus estimate of time required, on average, for each task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court administrative databases (ICMS or CM/ECF) • Identify docket events that mark the likely need for, or occurrence of, non-proceeding judicial activity (often in preparation for, or as the result of, a proceeding) • Examples: filing of an answer to the complaint; filing of cross or counter claims; filing of a motion; occurrence of a proceeding; issuance of an order or opinion; referral to, or receipt of report from, a magistrate judge or special master