



## NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW

*From the office of the*  
PRESIDENT AND DEAN

September 28, 2016

Chief Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins  
Tennessee Supreme Court  
321 Supreme Court Building  
401 7th Avenue, North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1407

Re: Indigent Representation Task Force

Dear Chief Justice Bivins:

The members of the Indigent Representation Task Force have been working diligently since our first meeting on November 6, 2015 in Nashville. We have completed our eight-city listening tour, and the information gained on this tour has been very valuable. It confirms the dedication of the public and private attorneys who are providing services to indigent clients in criminal and civil cases. It also highlights the need for significant changes and improvements in the way these services are currently being provided.

Our work has also convinced us that the scope of our task is broader and more complex than originally contemplated. We have identified additional issues that must be addressed, and we now understand that many of the solutions to these challenges are not amenable to off-the-shelf answers, but rather will require customized solutions for Tennessee's legal culture (or dare I say cultures).

When the Task Force was created, it was hoped that the work could be completed in time to provide the Tennessee Supreme Court with findings and recommendations before the end of 2016. We know that many of the challenges we are addressing have existed for far too long and that there is an urgent need to implement solutions. Despite this urgency, however, we have agreed that the original schedule is too ambitious and that we will not be able to provide the Court with a report of the required thoroughness and quality before the end of the year.

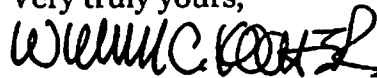
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Accordingly, on the Task Force's behalf, I am requesting that the deadline for delivering our final report to the Court be moved to Monday, April 3, 2017. We are receiving excellent support from the Administrative Office of the Courts and cooperation from the stakeholders. This support and cooperation will enable us to provide the Court with a constructive road map for improving Tennessee's delivery of indigent representation services within that time frame.

My colleagues and I remain committed to doing what we can to further the Court's long-standing commitment to equal access to justice and to our collective obligation to provide effective assistance of counsel to eligible persons who are unable to retain counsel on their own. We appreciate the Court's continued support and encouragement, and we invite you and your colleagues to stay actively involved in our work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you desire any additional information or if I can be of any other assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Koch, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William C. Koch, Jr.