

Judges, Staff and Money--How Can They Be Fairly Allocated?

WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CASE WEIGHTING SYSTEM TO INFORM THE ALLOCATION OF JUDICIAL RESOURCES

The Australasian Court Administrators' Group (ACAG) in association with the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA) will convene a workshop in Melbourne on **Friday 30 November 2018 (10:00 am to 4:00 pm)** entitled: "Judges, Staff and Money--How Can they be fairly allocated?"

A central focus of the workshop will be Case Weight Modelling – a methodology used in the USA for allocation resources to court.

This was the subject of a presentation by the Federal Judicial Center at the IACA Conference in Washington, DC in July 2017. This is important for a number of reasons particularly in relation to applications for funding by courts. It will be led by **Dr Carol Krafka**, one of the Washington, DC, presenters, formerly Federal Judicial Center.

The workshop, through presentation and participant discussion, will cover topics that include the following:

- What are case weights? Why are they needed? What are the benefits of a case weighting system?
- How is a court's weighted caseload determined?
- What use can be made of weighted caseload information?
- How do case weights factor into federal court requests for US lawmakers to fund new judgeships? Is consideration given to factors that are qualitative in nature?
- How is a system of case weights developed? (Hint: through an empirical case weighting study)
- How do you build support to launch a case weighting study? What are the strongest arguments favoring a study? Who needs to approve it?
- How is a case weighting study actually conducted?

This last question – How is a case weighting study actually conducted?—will be a major focus of the workshop. The presenter will cover:

- The nuts and bolts of methods used to develop case weights, including: 1) time studies that are diary based, 2) time studies that track cases longitudinally, 3) event based studies, and 4) judgment based studies.
- Comparison and trade-offs among the above methods
- Data requirements associated with different methods
- Choosing a method appropriate to court resources and data
- Skill set of the staff conducting a study
- Demands that different methods make on judge (and staff) time; strategies for minimizing those demands

- Establishment of case type (event type) categories
- Data collection procedures
- Data analysis associated with different methods
- Avoidance of bias in subjective components of studies
- Consideration of when adjustments to weights might be indicated
- Assistance by Advisory Groups
- Time frame required to reach study completion
- When to update weights that have been in use for a period of years