

AGENCY NAME:	SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT		
AGENCY CODE:	B04	SECTION:	057

**Fiscal Year 2016-2017
Accountability Report**

SUBMISSION FORM

AGENCY MISSION	The mission of the Judicial Department is to provide a fair, independent and accessible forum for the just and timely resolution of legal disputes.
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AGENCY VISION	The Judicial Department works constantly to provide a court system that not only is fair but is also perceived to be fair, and in which all persons are treated equally and all matters are resolved in an unbiased and just manner, according to the United States Constitution, the South Carolina Constitution, state statutes, and the common law.
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Please select yes or no if the agency has any major or minor (internal or external) recommendations that would allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently.

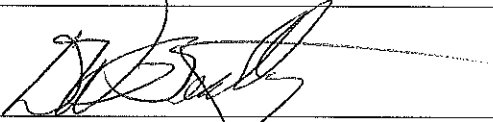
RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATIONS:	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's accountability report.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Tonnya Kohn	(803) 734-1800	tkohn@sccourts.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Carolyn Taylor	(803) 734-1970	ctaylor@sccourts.org

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I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2016-2017 Accountability Report, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR (SIGN AND DATE):	
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME):	Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty

BOARD/CMSN. CHAIR (SIGN AND DATE):	
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME):	

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION

By the adoption of Article V of the South Carolina Constitution, the people of South Carolina have established the South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) as one of the three co-equal branches of the State Government. The Chief Justice serves as the administrative head of the SCJD. Through administrative orders, court rules, and other directives, the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court of South Carolina provide guidance for the operation of the statewide, unified judicial system, and various boards and commissions that have been established by the Supreme Court. The organizational structure of the SCJD can be categorized into two areas: (1) adjudication and (2) administration. Directly or indirectly, the lives of all South Carolina citizens are affected by the decisions of the trial courts and the appellate courts. These courts make decisions that could involve local zoning, taxation, interpretation of state statutes, or other matters that may significantly affect the public.

SCJD continues to maintain its standards for effective and efficient administration even though the department has limited resources and budgetary constraints each year. The SCJD continues to implement new innovations that further improve services to the public while increasing efficiencies of internal operations. By optimizing resources and utilizing technology, the SCJD can reach its goals and achieve its mission of providing fair, independent and accessible forums for the just and timely resolution of legal disputes for the citizens of South Carolina.