

## **Conference of Chief Justices "Primary Contact" Protocol**

As we know, it is important for the Conference of Chief Justices to reach out to new Chief Justices early, both to familiarize them with the organization and to lend whatever assistance we can in their new role. Each of us remembers those difficult first days as Chiefs--both within our own States, and in the Conference of Chief Justices--and how appreciated it was when another Chief held out a helping hand. With that in mind, the Conference has long had a tradition of assigning mentors to new Chiefs. At its January 2004 meeting, the Past Presidents' Committee (at the suggestion of the Board of Directors) determined that it would attempt to formalize a mentoring protocol for the Conference, which we now do:

1. Upon the appointment of a new Chief, a letter of welcome should go out from the Conference President describing the organization and designating a mentor (attached). The letter should solicit any special interests of the new Chief.
2. Upon appointment, the mentor should also send a letter of welcome to the new Chief, possibly even offering the opportunity for a personal visit (in either jurisdiction).

3. In selecting mentors, the President will keep in mind factors such as proximity to the new Chief, prior relationships and the size of the jurisdiction.
4. The mentor will make every effort to be available to the new Chief, and in particular to secure that person's attendance at the next meeting of the Conference.
5. At the meeting, the mentoring Chief should make a special effort to introduce the new Chief to colleagues, and to keep a watchful eye generally, so that the new Chief receives the best possible orientation to the Conference.