

The Texas Judicial Council's

Judicial Centers of Excellence Framework

OFFICE *of* COURT ADMINISTRATION



Framework Sources

[ISO Quality Management Principles](#)

International Organization for Standardization, 2015.

[The International Framework for Court Excellence](#)

National Center for State Courts, 2013.

[Herding Lions: Shared Leadership of State Trial Courts](#)

National Center for State Courts, 2011.

[High Performance Court Framework](#)

National Center for State Courts, 2010.

[CourTools](#)

National Center for State Courts, 2005.



Framework Design: Assumptions

The framework:

- *Is* an incentive-based program designed to assist courts and court systems in assessing and improving their performance
- *Is* based on recognized standards of court performance
- *Is* supportive of local innovation and priorities
- *Is* flexible and allows for ongoing Judicial Council input
- *Is* a service-delivery model for OCA
- *Is not* a “one-size-fits-all” approach to court management
- *Is not* a compliance mechanism or regulatory tool

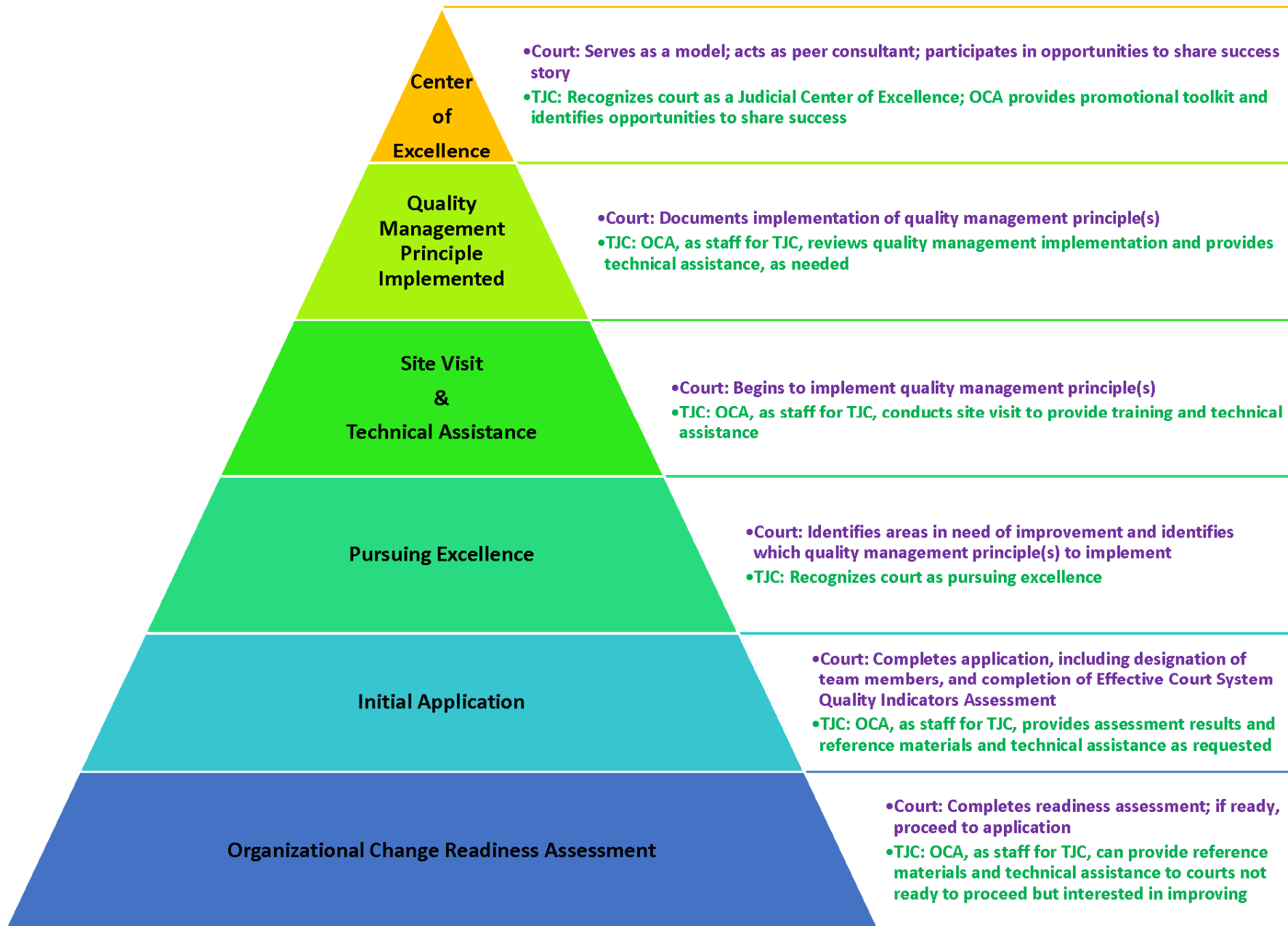


Framework Design: Performance Areas

- Access to Justice
- Caseflow Management
- Data-Driven Management
- Financial Management
- Governance
- Procedural Fairness
- Professional Development
- Strategic Thinking and Planning
- Technology Resources



Framework Implementation



Policy and Implementation Issues

- Will lack of reporting compliance by a *clerk* prevent a court from participating in the program?
- Will lack of reporting compliance by a *clerk* prevent a court system from participating in the program?



Requirements to Report to Judicial Council/OCA

Clerks

Statute/Order	Content
Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Ch. 11	Vexatious litigants subject to prefiling order
Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2	Request for hate crime finding
Estates Code, Ch. 1104	List of private professional guardians
Family Code, Ch. 33	Judicial bypass cases
Government Code, Ch. 71.035	Judicial Council shall collect statistics (Monthly Court Activity Report) – requirements detailed in Ch. 171, Administrative Code
Government Code, Ch. 71.0353	Offenses related to human trafficking
Government Code, Ch. 72	Jury charges and sentences in capital cases
Health & Safety Code, Ch. 574	Involuntary mental health services

Clerks and Courts

Statute/Order	Content
Supreme Court Order 07-9188	Appointments and fees paid of \$500 or more in civil cases
Government Code, Ch. 36	Appointments and fees (eff. 9/1/2016)

Local Administrative District or County Court at Law Judge

Statute/Order	Content
Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 102	Court security incidents in or around court

Next Steps

- Refine assessment tools
- Pilot the framework
- Develop communications campaign for statewide roll-out

