

District and Municipal Courts Case Management System

BACKGROUND

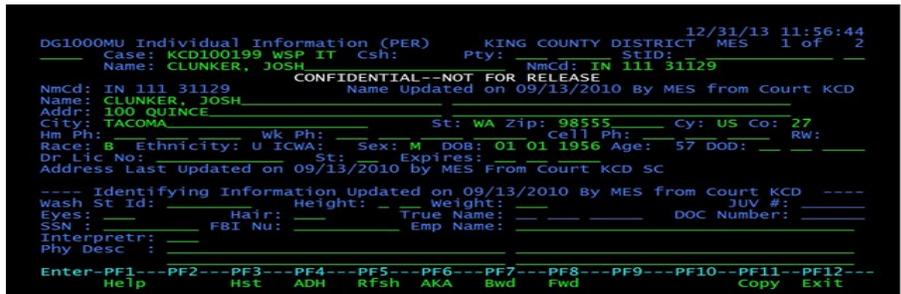
Under the leadership of the Judicial Information System (JIS) Committee, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) operates a statewide information network that automates and supports the daily operations of the courts. It connects the courts and partner criminal justice agencies to the JIS database, which serves as a clearinghouse for criminal history information. JIS clients include judicial officers, court managers and staff; agencies such as the Washington State Patrol, Dept. of Corrections, Secretary of State, Sentencing Guidelines Commission, and Dept. of Licensing; as well as local law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, the media, and law firms.

Funding to maintain and improve the statewide JIS system is provided primarily through an assessment on traffic infractions that is dedicated to court technology.

State of the art technology at the time, the JIS is now decades old and does not meet the business needs of modern courts.

THE NEED

- ◇ DISCIS is the primary case management and accounting system used by the district and municipal courts.
- ◇ 258 courts of limited jurisdiction process more than 18 million transactions per month—approximately 87% of the state’s caseload.
- ◇ This critical but aging 1980’s technology no longer meets the needs of today’s modern court systems. It is costly and difficult to maintain.
- ◇ Having a statewide system that shares criminal history promotes public safety.



Judicial Information System (JIS)

THE SOLUTION

Over the next several months, AOC will work with court customers to gather requirements and develop a proposal to acquire a commercial off-the-shelf case management system.

\$7.2 million in funding from the JIS Account will be needed during the 2015-2017 biennium to initiate and complete the vendor selection process and prepare existing systems for the transition to the new case management system.

- ◇ *Developing a new statewide system for the judiciary is critical, and it depends on a healthy JIS Account, dedicated to the courts’ technology needs.*
- ◇ A new, commercial-off-the-shelf case management system will provide improved:
 - Transparency and reliability of data on which judicial decisions are based.
 - Communications within and between the courts.
 - Information on prior convictions and case histories.
 - Ability to quickly and efficiently maintain and retrieve court records.
 - Efficiency in resource management, case docketing, scheduling, case status and progression, and party information.
 - Information and accessibility for the public, attorneys, media, and partner agencies.
 - Ability to implement legislative decisions and priorities and ability to meet changing demands.

For more information, please contact Mellani McAleenan at

Mellani.McAleenan@courts.wa.gov or 360.357.2113

12/4/14