

**COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY
e-COURT SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

December 6, 2007
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conference Call 602-452-3193 1112#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrew Hurwitz, *Chair*
Robert Brutinel, *General Jurisdiction*
Diane Drain, *State Bar*
Karl Heckart, *AOC*
Donald Jacobson, *Court Administrators*
Michael Jeanes, *Clerks*
Dennis Lusk, *Limited Jurisdiction*
Sheri Newman, *Clerks*

MEMBERS ABSENT

GUESTS

Rich McHattie, *Maricopa COSC*

AOC STAFF

Stewart Bruner, *ITD*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Justice Hurwitz welcomed members to the call at about 2:30 p.m. and recounted the names of those on the phone and assembled in the room.

LIMITED JURISDICTION SUBTEAM PROGRESS

Enable electronic citations statewide to prevent re-keying citation data. Judge Dennis Lusk briefed members on progress being made in two main areas of issuing and processing electronic citations. DPS and AOC have signed an interagency agreement allowing citation data to flow through the law enforcement network to DPS then onto the court network, AJIN, for transport to AOC to open cases in the AZTEC case management system. DPS now needs to add internal-use data from the stop beyond what's in the citation. Addressing this internal issue was the carrot for DPS to choose handhelds, rather than just using the MDCs in their patrol cars. He asked members to get the word out that use of an electronic ATTC is considered a "substantial variation" and must be approved by the AOC administrative director.

Judge Lusk also detailed efforts underway in justice courts to accept citation input from photo vans. His court piloting DPS photo van input in front of Casa Grande and Maricopa Justice in Pima County. He touched on an effort underway to standardize the way speed-related charges are issued by photo vans so that AOC only has to support a single charge scheme in AZTEC throughout the state. This was a topic at the recent meeting of presiding judges in Tucson.

Create web-enabled forms that feed case data into case management systems and documents into document management systems. Justice Hurwitz introduced the topic of

standardized form data by thanking Judge Lusk for doing yeoman duty in soliciting grass roots support over the past year. His sense is that more progress will be made by harnessing the interest of specific jurisdictions in making available specific, high volume forms. He feels Maricopa County is a good place to start because the justice courts there possess the infrastructure necessary to pull off a development project, but no specific discussion has yet occurred.

Staff member Stewart Bruner then outlined recent discussions he's had with both the legal aid community and a vendor interested in developing forms for court use. Further meetings are being held to explore the feasibility of pursuing one or both approaches, Clerk Michael Jeanes indicated that his office is familiar with the vendor, Turbo Court. Eventually limited jurisdiction judges will need to be brought back into the loop, when more details about the selected approach exist to share.

GENERAL JURISDICTION SUBTEAM PROGRESS

Prove the multi-provider case filing concept. Clerk Michael Jeanes reported that e-filing has now been successfully extended to family court, where seven judges are currently designating certain cases as e-file. The process of attempting to test the multi-provider model continues at Maricopa Superior. Only WizNet continues as a viable EFSP from the original three qualified vendors, so a move is underway to qualify additional vendors. Michael reported that the court's free, minimum-support, e-filing interface, primarily used for criminal cases, remains available in response to requests from the Supreme Court and State Bar. Discussion focused on the various communication efforts to attorneys that have been and will be undertaken. Communication is vital in allaying fears related to fear of the unknown with e-filing. Michael is also obtaining feedback, at the request of the chief justice, regarding the projected impact of mandatory e-filing. This feedback process may be sparking rumors of a secret timetable. None exists. Justice Hurwitz expressed the sentiment that mandatory e-filing is no longer considered an "if" but a "when" condition. The general assessment is that the multi-provider model has plenty of challenges, but continues to be worth pursuing.

Michael also updated members on the Clerk's effort to destroy paper records for which electronic images exist. A second administrative order has been obtained authorizing destruction of paper back to January 1, 2002. No destruction will take place, however, until time has passed for the identification of "historical cases" that would have their paper records sent to Library and Archives. Very few cases have been identified in the category thus far. This fact prompted a discussion about how widely word is getting out and to what populations. Diane Drain requested that Michael contact Tim Eigo at the State Bar magazine.

Judge Robert Bruitinel added that Yavapai is embarking on a project to move criminal case related documents among county justice partners using the OnBase system.

Justice Hurwitz thanked Maricopa for continuing to lead the way while the AOC focuses on transitioning to the new case management system for general jurisdiction courts. He felt great progress is being made overall toward e-filing.

Obtain document management systems in all superior courts and integrate them with case management systems. Karl Heckart very briefly reviewed a decision that must be made by AOC regarding use of a native AmCad document management solution at

superior courts rather than continuing to integrate with a separate OnBase EDMS. Another option mentioned was allowing a hybrid model where courts having OnBase already integrate while new courts are allowed to use the AmCad internal product. A research effort into the costs and impacts is getting underway.

APPELLATE LEVEL SUBTEAM PROGRESS

Transfer records on appeal electronically from superior courts to appellate courts.

Effort in the record on appeal arena is focusing more on increasing the volume of transfers and less on increasing the breadth of the program across more counties. Justice Hurwitz reported that Chief Judge Gemmill is pursuing a strategy to “turn on the spigot” of cases on appeal from Maricopa Superior, as that court represents almost 90 percent of the caseload in Division One.

Enable e-filing at the appellate court level. Focus remains on taking the Maricopa system and adapting it to do criminal filings at the Supreme Court. The Court obtained the commitment of the State Attorney General’s Office to file electronically in criminal cases. The next step is to talk with public defenders. The initial phase may be limited to cases having public counsel on both sides, to make it even more manageable.

Division Two is considering a modification to their e-filer program for use by litigants who do not have a bar number. A reliable way of handling identity must first be arrived at, but the sense was that the barriers are not insurmountable.

Karl Heckart mentioned a barrier of providing judges sufficient time to get used to dealing with case documents that are primarily in electronic format. He observed that some process changes may be outpacing that adoption curve, leading to uneasiness and even some resistance.

CRIMINAL FILING PROGRESS

Karl updated members on progress being made with construction of the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS), its adoption by Maricopa County ICJIS, and tying it into the AZTEC case management system. ADRS has the unintended side effect of exposing underlying communication and business process problems. When turned on, the work queue drowned the Maricopa prosecutor’s office and was subsequently turned off temporarily to restore the old interface and process. AOC, in searching for a pilot county, is discovering that criminal justice agencies must first standardize their ways of working together at the county level. Not doing so is a major barrier to successful adoption of the automated system. Work continues on the AZTEC interface and identifying a county that would use the interface in production. The AmCad case management system will use an interface to natively consume ADRS input going forward, so investing heavily in AZTEC at the superior court level may not be warranted.

NEXT STEPS

Justice Hurwitz requested another update meeting be scheduled for late February or early March of 2008.

After verifying that subcommittee members had no further business to discuss, Justice Hurwitz adjourned the meeting at about 4:05 p.m.