

**COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY
e-COURT SUBCOMMITTEE
LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS SUBTEAM
MEETING SUMMARY**

July 28, 2006
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Conference Call 602-542-9001
State Courts Building Room 102.5 (Large)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Lusk, *Apache Junction Justice, Chair*
George Anagnost, *Peoria Muni*
Louraine Arkfeld, *Tempe Muni*
Jose Luis Castillo, *Pima Justice*
Melanie Cluff, *Scottsdale Muni*
Joan Harphant, *Tucson Muni*
Donald Jacobson, *Flagstaff Muni*

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Kennedy, *Dewey/Humboldt JP and Muni*
James Montgomery, *Yuma County Justice*
John Ore, *University Lakes Justice (Maricopa)*
Judy Thompson-Ng, *Oro Valley Muni*
David Widmaier, *Navajo County Justice, JP's Association representative.*

GUESTS

Cathy Clarich, *Scottsdale Muni*
Pat Nelson, *ACJC*

AOC STAFF

Stewart Bruner, *ITD*
Melinda Hardman, *CSD*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Judge Lusk welcomed members and guests to the call at about 1:30 p.m. and reviewed the names of those present. To place in context this particular meeting, he recapped the previous meeting's (June 2) discussions. He welcomed Pat Nelson from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission who was listening in.

Discussion continued regarding the best ways to get clean digital data into the justice supply chain beginning with its initial input to the local court.

DISCUSSION AND RELATED CONCERNS

1. The multi-vendor model and forms-based limited jurisdiction court case filing – Forms-based filing, rather than vendor-based filing, was deemed most relevant to LJ courts, since most filings come from the public and most interactions take place with the public rather than with lawyers. It makes sense to pursue a pro se oriented case filing system constructed by and operated by the court rather than having over a hundred courts qualify individual vendors. Judge Lusk reviewed his effort to create “fillable” pdf forms for all filings into his court. Judge Castillo reported that forms are transitioning from paper to e-filing at Pima Consolidated Justice Court with much success.
The challenge is to get to an agreed-to set of forms for justice courts and muni courts. AOC ITD has volunteered to host and manage the forms once they are official, following agreement to adopt them statewide. Along those lines the JP's association

will discuss putting together a committee to work on forms at its next meeting. Judge Castillo and Judge Ore were asked to join that committee. Judge Arkfeld was asked to facilitate getting a similar group in the City Magistrates' Association where Judge Michelle O'Hair-Schattenberg from Tempe Muni is the current president. Joan Harphant informed members that the LJ court administrators' association has already performed an inventory of forms and she volunteered to forward that inventory to Judge Arkfeld.

Concern was expressed that the cart was getting put before the horse in having associations determine forms content rather than groups appointed by the Supreme Court, as has been done in the past. Judge Lusk and Stewart explained that the associations were just the starting point and that the forms would have to be vetted by the applicable AJC committees, as in the past, prior to an order mandating their use by the chief justice or changes to rules of procedure. The goal is to speed the early part of the process in the interest of shortening the overall timeline for adoption. Stewart will speak to Jennifer Greene at AOC about this strategy of volunteer organizations originating form content and the process of approval. Communication is key. Melinda Hardman from AOC will facilitate an appearance by Judge Lusk or Stewart at the next LJC meeting. Cathy Clarich will speak with Rick Rager about getting the topic on the agenda for the next LJ court administrator's meeting.

Concern was also expressed that Rule 124 discourages rather than encourages electronic case filing by mandating a 4:59 pm same day e-filing deadline while various clerks have a date/time stamp on their after-hours filing box for documents. Stewart responded that Rule 124 will be revisited by e-Court and that he has already noted that particular issue.

Don Jacobson issued an important caveat that the volunteer organizations not become preoccupied with the appearance of forms since they will eventually become mere containers for data. The focus must be on what data has to appear and how to ensure its accuracy -- a paradigm change that liaisons to the volunteer organizations must be able to explain. He also recommended that a person from AOC familiar with e-filing work with the volunteer organizations to define the necessary data.

2. e-Citation -- Judge Lusk described the e-citation model as being largely the same as for forms. He and Tim Lawler of AOC have spoken with the law enforcement organizations about adopting handhelds to provide digital input to courts and to their own records management systems. This approach creates a problem for those courts not using AZTEC, since the integration is being done for that CMS as the statewide approach. The assumption was made that the Tempe system would carry forward support for handheld citation data integration. Judge Lusk pointed out that ACJC has gotten involved in the interface standard from the law enforcement side, a positive development.
3. Civil cases unique to justice courts -- There was discussion about what case types are unique to justice courts and what case types are unique to municipal courts. Determining these helps the standardized forms effort. Small claims, forcible detainers, and feed liens were mentioned for justice courts. Ordinance enforcement was mentioned for muni courts. Common case types mentioned were civil traffic, protective orders, criminal traffic, and vicious animals.

4. Data Bus approach – Stewart described the data bus as AOC’s future integration strategy and a way of gaining access to justice partners’ information without having the “fix up” their systems. Pat Nelson explained ACJC’s role in the information access realm.

TIMELINES

No solid timelines were created for either form-based e-filing or e-citations. The group focused more on the milestones involved in getting each of those goals accomplished.

WRAP-UP

Our next meeting, another conference call, will be a report back session on efforts of the volunteer associations and an update on the statewide approach to e-citations. Judge Lusk polled members as to their availability in early October and determined that the afternoon of the October 3rd was the best date/time, at least for those on the call.

After reminding subteam members that they could always direct questions to himself or to Stewart and confirming that members had no further business to discuss, Judge Lusk adjourned the meeting at about 2:55 p.m.