



First Phase of CLJ-CMS Project Begins with Search and Procurement of System

Plans will move into high-gear in 2016 to locate a modern case management system to replace the aging District Court Information System (DISCIS) system now serving Washington courts of limited jurisdiction.

The Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System (CLJ-CMS) Project received \$3.8 million in funding from state lawmakers for the first phase of the project which began in January 2016. Preparations to launch the project quickly, however, were underway throughout 2015.

The CLJ-CMS project was approved unanimously in February 2014 by the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) as the top technology need of the CLJ courts. Members of the project’s Court User Work Group have completed the gathering of system requirements — an extensive amount of work that defines and specifies what is needed in a new system.

This information is critical for the next phases of searching for and procuring a system.

The DISCIS system was built and launched in 1987 to serve the district and municipal courts in Washington. Implementation was completed in 1991 and there has been no significant upgrade of the system since that time, despite significant

growth in population, caseloads, and extensive advancements in technology.

Washington now has approximately 250 courts of limited jurisdictions which receive more than 2 million cases per year and process 18 million transactions a month. They account for 87 percent of the state’s court caseloads and their aging case management system is in dire need of modernization.

Taking lessons learned from the Superior Court Case Management System (SC-CMS) project, the CLJ-CMS project will focus on locating and procuring a system that has already been developed for the market — what is called a “commercial-off-the-shelf” (COTS) system. An in-depth feasibility study for the SC-CMS project found this approach to be the most viable and least risky (as opposed to a system being built from scratch, or other approaches).

Though the Odyssey system by Tyler Technologies was chosen for the SC-CMS project, no product has yet been chosen for the CLJ-CMS project. The planning and procurement process will follow important steps for a large technology project and be guided by the CLJ-CMS Steering Committee and Court User Work Group.

For more information, visit www.courts.wa.gov/cljcms.



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