These Letters are

In Support of

JIS Rule 13

For JISC Meeting

FRIDAY ~ 03/06

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES
7122 W. Okanogan Place, Building A, Kennewick, WA 99336

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
BRUCE A. SPANNER

BENTON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
TELEPHONE (509) 736-3071
FAX (509) 736-3057

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I am writing to express my support for adoption of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. As the representative of the Superior Court Judges Association, I have been active in the Superior Court Case Management System project. Initially, I helped develop business requirements for the procurement. I then reviewed the responses to the requests for proposal and evaluated the software demonstrations. For the last 24 months, I have been a member of the Court Users Work Group. We are charged with the responsibility of working with the vendor to customize and configure the case management application. I believe I have extensive knowledge of case management systems.

The proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 are critical to future of judicial information. The JIS Data Standards for Alternative Court Record Systems, recently adopted by the JISC, are designed to ensure that the statewide system will continue to have necessary data from courts with independent systems. However, without an enforcement mechanism, there is nothing that gives courts with independent systems the incentive to comply with the data standards. That is why the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 are so important.

Shared court data is crucial to public safety for all Washington courts and our justice partners to continue to have access to statewide judicial information. Every day our court depends on access to information from other courts. Pierce County Superior Court already has a separate case management system, and King County plans to implement a separate system. Without a requirement for those courts to send critical data to the statewide system, we will lose critical information that judges and staff in other courts need to do their jobs every day.

We have an opportunity to truly modernize case management. It is frustrating to watch as factions seek to undermine progress. The proposed amendments do not affect any court's ability to employ independent systems. Rather, the proposed amendments simply create performance standards for data collection and dissemination. Under the proposed rule, they can have their own systems, so long as the system can record and export data as required by the JIS Data Standards for Alternative Court Record Systems.

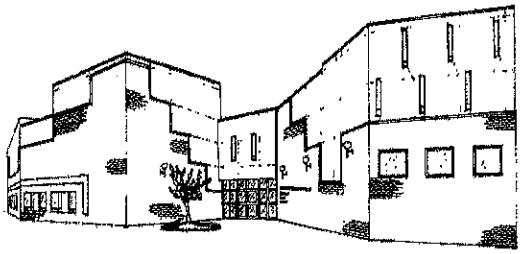
I encourage you to adopt the amendments to JISC Rule 13, as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Spanner
Superior Court Judge
Benton and Franklin Counties

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu
Mr. Ronald R. Carpenter, Clerk of the Supreme Court



SKAGIT COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
Larry E. Moller Building
600 South Third Street
P.O. Box 340
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273-0340
(360) 336-9319 Fax (360) 336-9318

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: JISCR 13

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I support passage of the proposed amendments to JISCR 13 and ask you and the rest of the Supreme Court to vote accordingly.

As our aged case management infrastructure has been called upon to function in modern times, its' limitations have become glaringly apparent. In response some of our trial courts from forward thinking jurisdictions with money have chosen to implement modern alternative case management systems. In the main, these systems are unable to communicate with the state maintained system and information from these courts finds its way to the state system in truncated form or not at all. As a result, judges and court staff state-wide lack critical information they need to perform their jobs effectively.

JISCR 13 sets standards for the information that needs to be entered into the Judicial Information System by every court. This requirement is absolutely essential to a state-wide system. Indeed, in many instances state law requires a judge to take certain actions but said judge would be unaware of the need to take action when the information is unavailable because it was never entered into the system.

JISCR 13 also makes receipt of JIS funding dependent upon the recipient court's compliance with data entry requirements. This is certainly consistent with the legislature's stated purpose when allocating monies for the JIS and, further, is consistent with the strictures the legislature enacted relative to the Superior Court case management system.

This is a pivotal juncture for our statewide system. Without data standards that are enforced, no useful unified system can exist. I applaud the pioneering spirit of the handful of innovative courts that have researched and implemented their own case management systems. Unfortunately, these systems are implemented to the prejudice

of the remaining majority of the courts so long as there are no enforceable data standards.

This past year when I was President of the District and Municipal Court Judge's Association, I dedicated my efforts to moving the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction case management system forward. I appreciate to monumental efforts made by AOC and members of the Supreme Court in moving that effort forward nearly five years. I fear that the diaspora of the larger, more financially secure courts from the state maintained case management system threatens implementation of a new system to the detriment of two hundred plus remaining district and municipal courts. Mr. Spock said it best when he noted that "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." I am hopeful that the case management system project now underway will result in a product that meets the needs of all. For the present, however, adoption of amended JISCR 13 will safeguard the ability of the many to effectively and consistently apply the law.

The decision before the Supreme Court requires that it take a firm position on data standards. In weighing this issue I urge you to consider JISCR 1 which calls for a statewide system "to serve the courts of the state of Washington."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David A. Svaren

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu

Superior Court of the State of Washington
for Snohomish County

JUDGES
THOMAS J. WYNNE
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GEORGE F.B. APPEL
JOSEPH P. WILSON
RICHARD T. OKRENT
JANICE E. ELLIS
MARYBETH DINGLEDY
MILLIE M. JUDGE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
M/S #502
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201-4060
(425) 388-3421

PRESIDING JUDGE
MICHAEL T. DOWNES

COURT COMMISSIONERS
LESTER H. STEWART
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SUSAN C. GAER
LEE B.TINNEY

SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR
BOB TERWILLIGER

December 1, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I am writing to express the support of the Snohomish County Superior Court bench for the adoption of proposed amendments to GR 13. Next year, Lewis County will begin the statewide process of migrating from the 1977 vintage SCOMIS system to the more modern Odyssey Superior Court Case Management system. Snohomish County will be the largest county in the state to implement the Odyssey system. The District and Municipal Courts will follow the Superior Courts in implementing their own new CLJ statewide case management system.

Not all trial courts will be implementing the new statewide case management systems. Pierce County has used their local LINKS system for years. King County Superior Court has opted out of Odyssey implementation, in favor of a locally managed electronic court record system, yet to be determined. Spokane Municipal Court notified JISC in Dec. 2011 of their decision to acquire a local electronic court record system. Seattle Municipal Court currently has its own

electronic court record system and enters only limited date into JIS. Other District and Municipal Courts, including King County District Court, are considering acquiring local electronic court record systems.

Whatever the shortcomings of our current 1970's mainframe systems, there has been an obvious advantage in the statewide sharing of data about people and cases. Our decisions as judges are only as good as the information upon which those decisions are based.

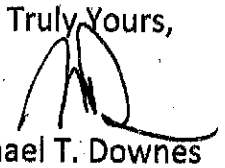
Snohomish County uses the Adult Static Risk Assessment (ASRA) and information contained in JABS to make all release and bail decisions in criminal cases. We review JIS information before approving parenting plans in family law cases. Our judicial officers need to know what other courts outside our county have done with respect to the issuance of DV and other restraining orders on parties appearing before us. Public safety demands that the information in those systems maintained by AOC be both current and accurate.

JISC has adopted data standards at the direction of the legislature and an implementation plan for those standards. The amendments proposed to GR 13 provide for notice and approval from JISC for any locally adopted electronic court record system. The proposed GR 13 amendment also provides for an enforcement mechanism.

Without the amendments proposed to GR 13 there will be no incentive for courts to comply with JISC adopted statewide data standards. Disparate electronic court record systems will not be able to effectively communicate with one another and judicial officers will not have access to the data necessary to make informed decisions on the bench.

The Judges of the Snohomish County Superior Court unanimously urge your approval of the proposed amendments to GR 13.

Very Truly Yours,



Michael T. Downes
Presiding Judge

Cc:
Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst, Chair, Judicial Information System Committee
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu

DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL COURT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT Suzanne Elsner
Marysville Municipal Court
1015 State Ave
Marysville, WA 98270
(360) 363-6054
Fax (360) 657-2960
selsner@marysvillewa.gov

PRESIDENT-ELECT Linda Baker
Poulsbo Municipal Court
200 NE Moe St
Poulsbo, WA 98370
(360) 779-9846
Fax (360) 779-1584
lbaker@cityofpoulsbo.com

VICE PRESIDENT Paulette Revoir
Lynnwood Municipal Court
19321 44th Ave W
PO Box 5008
Lynnwood, WA 98046
(425) 670-5100
Fax: (425) 774-7039
prevoir@ci.lynnwood.wa.us

SECRETARY Mickey Zitkovich
Burlington Municipal Court
311 Cedar Ste
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 755-0492
Fax: (360) 755-2391
mickeyz@ci.burlington.wa.us

TREASURER Bonnie Woodrow
Renton Municipal Court
1055 S Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
(425) 430-6551
Fax (425) 430-6544
kmartin@co.franklin.wa.us

PAST PRESIDENT Aimee Vance
Kirkland Municipal Court
11740 NE 118th St
PO Box 678
Kirkland, WA 98034
(425) 587-3163
FAX (425) 587-3161
avance@kirklandwa.gov

January 21, 2015

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO BOX 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Received
JAN
Justice Mary E. Fairhurst

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

The executive board of the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) urge you to consider the importance of the proposed amendments to the availability of judicial information statewide. We are writing to express our support for passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13.

We want to ensure that the critical information which all courts in the State of Washington rely on to complete their work is available as courts with the resources move to their own case management system. The proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 makes sure that those courts adhere to the recently approved JIS Data Standards for Alternative Court Record Systems.

We urge you to pass the proposed amendments to protect the integrity of the information needed in the administration of justice.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Elsner,
President, DMCMA

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. Gonzalez
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:46 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Comment on JISCR 13

Another rule comment ☺

Kris Triboulet
Receptionist/Secretary
Washington State Supreme Court
Kristine.triboulet@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2077

From: Kim Morrison [mailto:kim.morrison@co.chelan.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:43 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Cc: Hinchcliffe, Shannon
Subject: Comment on JISCR 13

Dear Justice Charles Johnson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to JISC Rule 13.

If the Administrative Office of the Court intends to support the provision of statewide access to trial court case-related data, the currently suggested revisions to JISC Rule 13 do not go far enough to address the need for data exchange. Instead of grappling with the reality that approximately 42% of state court data will be, in the foreseeable future, entered into alternative electronic court record systems, and instead of dealing with how to get that data transferred into a functioning data hub, it is concerned solely with a threat to cut off JIS Account funds to courts with alternative systems.

This is not a constructive approach to our shared problem. All courts would benefit by access to a data hub from which we can access all court data statewide. The decision to deny any access to JIS Account funding to a subsection of courts seems shortsighted. So is the suggestion that the JISC has any authority to tell local governments what contracts they can enter into and when they can do it.

I hope the committee will reject these proposed changes and let Rule 13 remain in its current form, at least until the JISC has adopted a work plan to create an efficient and flexible means for our data to come together through automated data exchange.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this rule.

Kim Morrison
Chelan County Clerk
P.O. Box 3025
Wenatchee WA 98807-3025

509-667-6470

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Des Moines & Normandy Park Municipal Court
21630 11th Avenue South, Suite C
Des Moines, Washington 98198-6398

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I am writing to express my support for passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. Having served as municipal court judge for the City of Des Moines for almost seven years I cannot underscore enough the importance technology plays in the performance of my duties. All judges, whether serving in large urban districts or small rural communities are reliant upon information provided through technology in order to make decisions that impact the lives of individuals who appear before them, their families and the safety of their community at large. Everyone agrees that we are in the midst of a technological crisis and the need to harness technology to be better informed and more efficient courts is necessary.

The inability to use some of the newer technology to improve court efficiency has caused some courts, to go "off grid" and create their own case management systems whose information is primarily available at the local level. This has caused frustration with other courts, as information necessary to assist a judge in rendering a decision is hampered by the inability to fully access these local systems often times in contiguous jurisdictions.

It is not the intent of these proposed rules to stifle innovation or intrude upon the local practices of differing courts. Instead, these rules provide a baseline of information necessary to be input into the statewide system which will be accessible to all courts. Currently, courts are not required to provide minimum information to the statewide system leading to significant gaps in information for judges who are trying to make informed decisions. Without these rules, there is

no incentive to comply with any data standards, as evinced by jurisdictions who recently implemented their own systems.

There are over two hundred district and municipal courts throughout our state and each has different needs and requirements that are unique to their situation. However, we must recognize that while we may differ philosophically on how to best run our individual courts, we all need access to the same quantity and quality of information in order to perform our duties and provide justice to those we serve. As we move forward in our efforts to harness technology and its uses to help us become more informed and efficient courts, we must always be cognizant that we serve a justice system not a system for just us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica Alicea-Galvan

Presiding Judge Des Moines Municipal Court

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst, Chair, Judicial Information System Committee
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu

Superior Court of the State of Washington
For Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225

Chambers of
CHARLES R. SNYDER
Judge

(360) 738-2457
FAX (360) 676-6693
csnyder@co.whatcom.wa.us

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed JISC Rule 13

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I am writing to express my support for passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. I have been directly involved in the process for obtaining a new, modern case management system for the Superior Courts and, in that process, have recognized the essential need for full data sharing among counties and courts. In the Superior Courts there is a significant difference from county to county in information technology capabilities and willingness by local IT departments to implement changes. All judges, whether serving in counties with robust technology or in counties with little, are dependent upon information provided through technology in order to make decisions that impact the lives of individuals who appear before them, their families and the safety of their community at large. We, as a court system, are in danger of falling ever farther behind in the technology arena even as we struggle with an outdated and fragmented system. An integrated and seamless system is badly needed and long overdue.

The choice of some larger, more technologically capable counties to implement their own systems may be appropriate, but the need to share information and data between those counties and all the others can't and shouldn't be compromised. The essence of the proposed system for the Superior Courts and that planned for the near future for the courts of limited jurisdiction is just this type of data sharing, so that all courts can have information about people and cases in other courts. It is absolutely necessary that each court can know of proceedings and orders in adjacent or nearby jurisdictions as the people subject to court orders are increasingly mobile.

The proposed rule provides a baseline of information necessary to be included into the statewide system which will be accessible to all courts. Currently, courts are not required to provide minimum information to the statewide system leading to significant gaps in information for judges who are trying to make informed decisions. Without this rule, there is no incentive to comply with any data standards, as evinced by jurisdictions who recently implemented their own systems.

Please give serious consideration to the proposed rule. Without the rule, there will be no enforcement mechanism to help counties that will need to rely on the statewide system be sure that they are receiving all of the necessary case information.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Charles R. Snyder
Whatcom County Superior Court, Immediate Past President SCJA

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst, Chair, Judicial Information System Committee
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu

CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
WASHINGTON

Issaquah Municipal Court
135 E. Sunset Way | P.O. Box 7005
Issaquah, WA 98027
PH: 425-837-3170
FAX: 425-837-3178
issaquahwa.gov

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

We are writing to express our support for passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. The members of the Steering Committee for the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System urge you to consider the importance of the proposed amendments to the availability of judicial information statewide.

It is crucial to public safety for all Washington courts and our justice partners to continue to have access to statewide judicial information. Every day our court depends on access to information from other courts. A number of larger courts with greater resources have purchased, or are planning to purchase, their own case management systems. As those courts move to their own systems, we lose critical information that judges and court staff need to do their jobs every day.

The JIS Data Standards for Alternative Court Record Systems, recently passed by the JISC, are designed to ensure that the statewide system will continue to have minimum necessary data from courts with independent systems. However, without an enforcement mechanism, there is nothing that gives courts with independent systems the incentive to comply with the data standards. That is why the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 are so important. Again, I urge you to pass the proposed amendments to protect the integrity of the information we depend on for the administration of justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynne Campeau, Chair
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System Project Steering Committee
Administrator, Issaquah Municipal Court

On behalf of:

Judge Glenn Phillips, Kent Municipal Court
Judge Kimberly Walden, Tukwila Municipal Court
Cynthia Marr, Administrator, Pierce County District Court
Aimee Vance, Administrator, Kirkland Municipal Court
Larry Barker, Director, Klickitat County Adult Probation Services
Melanie Vanek, Issaquah Municipal Court Probation Services

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu