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THE ALLIANCE for Equal Justice
MEMBER

August 7, 2018

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO mary.fairhurst@courts.wa.gov

Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst
Washington Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Access to Justice Technology Principles Update

Dear Chief Justice Fairhurst:

On behalf of the Access to Justice (ATJ) Board, I am writing about the updated Access to Justice Technology Principles. In response to the Supreme Court's 2015 request to update the 2004 Principles, the ATJ Board's Technology Committee has been working diligently to make the Principles more relevant and meaningful given that that the original Principles are now almost 14 years old.

I am pleased to report that the ATJ Board approved the enclosed draft of the updated Principles and respectfully requests the Supreme Court's approval and direction on next steps.

The ATJ Board's Technology Committee facilitated a thorough and inclusive process in evaluating the enclosed 2004 Principles and identifying what kind updates were necessary. The following is a summary of the process the Committee went through:

- **September 9-10, 2016**: The Technology Committee organized the Access to Justice Technology Symposium at the University of Washington School of Law where nearly 100 people gathered together and focused on legal technology innovation. The symposium launched the process for updating the Technology Principles.

- **March 15, 2017**: Following the symposium, a small workgroup formed to identify a Chair for the Tech Principles Update Workgroup and to lay out a timeline for the updating process. Sart Rowe agreed to serve as the Chair, recruitment of workgroup members started and the first meeting took place in March 2017.

- **April 2017 to October 2017**: The workgroup created an online survey and solicited feedback on the 2004 Principles. Some workgroup members

facilitated in-person interviews to gather feedback. Sart Rowe attended the Spokane Regional Justice Planning Group meeting and solicited feedback on the 2004 Principles.

- **October 27, 2017**: In an effort to solicit more feedback and engage in updating the Principles, the workgroup organized an event called "Rethink, Retool, Reboot: Technology and Justice" where over 50 people gathered together at the University of Washington School of Law. The event started with a panel of speakers to provide context on how much has changed since the 2004 Principles were adopted. The remainder of the event was a hackathon style format where attendees split up into facilitated small group discussions focusing on each principle.

- **November 2017 to February 2018** – Following the event, the workgroup set out an ambitious schedule of reviewing the feedback and drafting newly revised Principles. The workgroup split up into smaller groups focusing on each principle and engaging in a rigorously drafting process.

- **February 9, 2018** – The workgroup met as a larger group for the day at Seattle University School of Law to review the work of the smaller groups and discuss the revisions together. At the end of the day, the workgroup had a working draft of the updated Principles.

- **April to June 2018** – In recognition of the need to get feedback from diverse voices including client communities, the workgroup asked the University of Washington Tech Policy Lab to gather input using their Diverse Voices process. Enclosed is the feedback the Tech Lab solicited from the following four different focus groups: formerly or currently incarcerated people, legal professionals, immigrant communities, and rural communities.

- **July 2018** – The workgroup reviewed, evaluated and incorporated the feedback received through Diverse Voices into the final proposed draft. The Technology Committee approved the final draft and presented it to the ATJ Board on July 13th. The Board unanimously approved presenting the updated Principles to the Supreme Court for your approval and guidance on an implementation process.

The ATJ Board is grateful for the many volunteers who spent countless hours poring through the Principles. The Board is also thankful for the many people who shared their feedback throughout the updating process. The enclosed updated Principles are the result of a commitment to the intersection of technology and justice shared by many.

The ATJ Board respectfully requests the Supreme Court's adoption of the revised Technology Principles and guidance on an implementation process. There are many ways the Principles can be implemented. The 2004 Technology Principles were printed in the Washington Court Rules

book at one time. At the "Rethink, Retool, Reboot: Technology and Justice" event in October 2017, it was suggested that the newly revised Principles be adopted as Court Rules. Please let me know if the Court prefers a presentation of the updated Principles and/or to discuss the implementation possibilities in person. You can reach me at geoff.revelle@FisherBroyles.com or Diana Singleton, Access to Justice Manager, at dianas@wsba.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Revelle
Access to Justice Chair

cc: Judge Laura Bradley, ATJ Board Member and Technology Co-Chair
Destinee Evers, Outgoing Technology Committee Co-Chair
Jordan Couch, Incoming Technology Co-Chair
Sart Rowe, Technology Principles Update Workgroup Chair
Paula Littlewood, WSBA Executive Director

encl: Current Technology Principles
Updated Technology Principles
Diverse Voices Feedback