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September 7, 2018

Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Equipment Replacement Project

Dear Chief Justice and Members of the JISC,

It has recently come to our attention that the AOC policy for reimbursement of computer equipment includes laptop computers for judges only. Courts are not given reimbursement for staff computers unless they are willing to buy desktops.

While researching the issue, the District and Municipal Court Management Association, (DMCMA) couldn't locate a policy that declared laptops ineligible for reimbursement. The JIS General Policies on equipment do not appear to specify they type of computer that is allowable. They only use the term, "Personal Computer". The relevant sections of the JIS General Policy are as follows:

1.1.2 Subject to available funding, the AOC provides end-user equipment including personal computers and printers for court personnel and county clerks in JIS and non-JIS courts. The AOC does not provide equipment for users other than courts and county clerks.

1.2.2.1 If a local court or county clerk's office prefers to purchase its replacement computer equipment rather than use that supplied by the JIS, the JIS will reimburse the court or county clerk for the actual cost of the equipment or a specified amount based on current market prices per device, whichever is less.

It is our belief that the definition of a personal computer is, just that, a computer that is designed to be used by one person. The definition does not differentiate between laptop and desktop.

The DMCMA would urge the JISC to consider updating the policy to allow reimbursement of laptops for court staff as well as judges.

We would ask that this reimbursement occur regardless if the computers are leased or purchased by the cities and counties. DMCMA is not suggesting additional funding for this program. We are asking that reimbursement be made in the current budgeted amount of $790, which is the current amount allotted for staff computers, ($675 computer and $115 monitor).

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Margaret Yetter
DMCMA President
Kent Municipal Court

Cc: Vonnie Diseth
Ramsey Radwan
Judge Rebecca Robertson
Sharon Harvey
Vicky Cullinane