Judicial Information System Committee Meeting October 26, 2018

DECISION POINT – JIS General Policies

MOTION:

- I move to modify the AOC practice, pursuant to JIS General Policy 1, to allow courts and clerks' offices to be reimbursed, up to the current budgetary allowance of $790 for the purchase of replacement laptops for court staff. In future biennia, courts and clerks' offices would be eligible for reimbursement for laptops only at that biennium's desktop rate.

I. BACKGROUND

As each court was implemented with the Judicial Information System (SCOMIS, DISCIS, JUVIS), the JIS fund provided some end user equipment to enable users to access the system. With the implementation of the IP network, and the need to replace "dumb" terminals, in 1996, AOC began supplying personal computers to courts and clerks' offices. The amount of equipment AOC supplied depended on available funds.

JIS General Policy 1.1 provides that, subject to legislative funding, the JIS fund will provide personal computers and printers at up to 75% of FTEs for courts and county clerks. Pursuant to JIS Policy 1.1.4, equipment is provided to users to enable judicial officers, clerks, court administrators, and their staff to access and update the JIS, do legal research, or for other court business purposes.

JIS General Policy 1.2 provides for replacement of existing AOC-supplied equipment every five years, subject to legislative funding. JIS General Policy 1.2.2.1 allows courts and county clerks to purchase their own replacement equipment and be reimbursed for the actual cost of the equipment or an amount based on current market prices, whichever is less.

JIS General Policy 1.7 provides that each superior and district court judge and each full-time commissioner receives one personal computer. Full-time municipal court judges, and those whose courts have a substantial domestic violence caseload, receive one personal computer. Judges' personal computers are eligible for reimbursement contracts. Policies for judges' equipment were established in 1998, and the allocation for municipal court judges was established in 1999.

II. DISCUSSION

It has been the practice of AOC to reimburse courts and clerks offices for the purchase of desktop computers for court or clerk's office staff, and to reimburse for laptops only for judges. In the current budget cycle, desktop computers are reimbursed at the rate of up to $790 and laptops are reimbursed at a rate of up to $1,050.

On September 7, 2018, the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) sent a letter to Chief Justice Fairhurst asking the JISC to update the AOC practice to reimburse courts for the purchase of laptops at the amount allotted for court staff in the current budget cycle, $790. The DMCMA also requested reimbursement regardless of whether the computers are purchased or leased by cities and counties.

On October 11, 2018, the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association sent a letter to Chief Justice Fairhurst supporting the DMCMA's request to allow reimbursement for purchase of laptops for court staff.

OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED –

If this change is not made, courts and clerks' offices will be limited to purchasing desktops for their staff if they want to be reimbursed for those costs from the JIS fund.