

**APPROVED MINUTES  
JUDICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE**

**March 29, 2002**

**Members Present:**

Justice Bobbe Bridge, Chair  
Ms. Patricia Crandall  
Mr. Greg Banks  
Mr. Richard Carlson  
Ms. Cathleen M. Grindle  
Judge James R. Heller  
Ms. Virginia Kirk  
Judge Dale Ramerman  
Judge Clifford L. Stilz  
Judge Michael Trickey, Ex Officio  
Judge Thomas J. Wynne

**Members Absent:**

Judge C. Kenneth Grosse, Vice Chair  
Mr. N.F. Jackson  
Ms. Mary McQueen  
Judge Vance W. Peterson  
Chief Mike Vandiver  
Ms. Siri Woods

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Brian Backus  
Mr. Alan Erickson  
Ms. Kathy Kuriyama  
Ms. Kathie McClure

**Staff Absent:**

Dr. Tom Clarke

**Guests Present:**

Mr. Rich Johnson, Court of Appeals, Div. I  
Ms. Barbara Miner, King County Superior  
Court Clerk's Office  
Mr. Jess Nash, Seattle Municipal Court  
Mr. Dwight Williams, Access to Justice Board

**CALL TO ORDER**

Justice Bridge called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and asked everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves.

**Motion:** The January 25, 2002 minutes were approved as written.

**INFORMATIONAL**

***JIS Budget – Brian Backus***

Brian Backus reported that the deficit in the JIS Fund this biennium is estimated at \$4.2 million dollars. In addition, the Supplemental Budget includes a small cut in the PSEA Fund that will be absorbed by AOC without impacting JIS. Justice Bridge noted that the Executive Committee will meet on April 17<sup>th</sup> to decide what further project or service cuts to make.

***Superior Data Exchange Data Set – Alan Erickson***

The November 2001 meeting included an update on the planned superior court data exchange that is being developed with the Pierce County LINX system. The Committee asked the AOC to report back on the dataset for statewide data sharing. Alan Erickson explained the handout presented a high level view of the dataset. Data only needed locally will not be included in the exchange. The shared categories of data include

person information, data relating to cases as needed for statewide purposes, docket information and orders.

### ***SJM 8034 Tribal Court JIS Access – Brian Backus***

Senate Joint Memorial 8034, which Senator Costa introduced to encourage the courts to enter into contracts with Tribes for exchanging information particular to Domestic Violence Orders, did not pass because the House ran out of time to act on it. Justice Bridge commented on the history of this issue and noted that, in good faith with Senator Costa, we are prepared to push forward with it.

### ***JIS-Link on the Web – Brian Backus***

Mr. Backus reported that in mid-March the AOC opened up Internet access to JIS-Link. The application and charging scheme remain the same, but the screens are presented in HTML.

### ***Strategic Funding Plan – Brian Backus***

Mr. Backus and Victor Moore will draft a plan for the JISC and other stakeholders to educate legislators about the benefits of the JIS and the projects in the migration plan. This is especially important because it will be tough to get funding in the next biennium. As the plan is fleshed out Mr. Backus will report back to the JISC. Justice Bridge noted that it is important for members to think about what customers should be involved in legislative contacts. She also commented that the JISC and the courts can't do this alone, so we need to build coalitions.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Availability of JIS Records on Court Websites – Brian Backus***

Mr. Backus noted that the JIS has traditionally and by law provided public access using a fee for services approach -- JIS-Link. Now, the Internet has become the preferred method for accessing information electronically, but the expectation is free service. Nationally, fourteen state court websites permit access to trial court case information, with nine offering free access and five, including Washington, charge for access.

AOC will make available next month a small calendar application that provides hearing dates for statewide limited jurisdiction cases on the web. This could be expanded into a wider resource for information about hearing times and cases, but the impact on JIS-Link revenues would probably be significant. Committee members expressed a desire to understand the relationship between new public access web applications and lost JIS-Link revenue. The AOC can only speculate about this relationship in the absence of real data.

Justice Bridge asked who the current JIS-Link users are. Mr. Backus responded that there are about 800 private sector users in a wide range of organizations, including two big data resellers (CourtLink [now owned by Lexis] and Commercial Information Systems). Examples include credit reporters, attorneys, large employers such as Boeing and Microsoft, private investigators, title companies, and newspapers. **Action Item:** AOC will find out how other state judicial systems are funding free Internet access to case information.

### **Date and Location of JIS Retreat**

The retreat will be held in the same location as last year (the Best Western Wesley Inn at Gig Harbor) and will last one day. **Action Item:** AOC staff will check on availability of absent members, staff availability and availability of the facility.

## **COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Data Dissemination Subcommittee**

Judge Ramerman reported that the committee focused on the draft public access court rule and the definition of case data and residential addresses. The committee plans to have more frequent meetings and to focus on developing a task list. The committee also discussed amendments to GR 22 proposed by Mark Weiss to deal with pension information, guardianship and harassment case issues. Justice Bridge commented that the pension issues had been brought to her attention.

### **JIS Advisory Committee**

Ms. Grindle reported discussions of write-offs at the Superior Court level and a change to the Person Business Rules concerning the entry of a date of death in the JIS system.

### **RMAC**

Rich Johnson reported that the committee expects their initiative on retention of court records to now merge with the electronic filing efforts. The Court Management Council approved the recommendations from the electronic recording subcommittee specifying that all court proceedings be recorded, that AOC establish a master contract for purchasing equipment and a model service agreement for courts to use, and that digital technology be adopted as an acceptable standard. The report will now be presented to the BJA.

### **Electronic Filing Court Rule Subcommittee**

Justice Bridge reported that the committee expects to have a draft rule by early summer. The committee wants to keep the rule uncomplicated and not prescribe every detail, since e-filing will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The two biggest issues are what to do about signatures and the definition of filed documents (i.e., when is a document deemed to be filed).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next JIS Committee meeting will be May 24, 2002, (*in conjunction with the Data Dissemination Subcommittee meeting*), 10:30 a.m. to Noon, at Two Union Square, Rm. 1606, Seattle, WA.

The next JIS Data Dissemination Subcommittee meeting will be on May 24, 2002, (*in conjunction with the JISC meeting*), 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at Two Union Square, Room 1606, Seattle, WA.

The next JIS Advisory Committee meeting will be on June 20, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, at Two Union Square, Room 1606, Seattle, WA.