

THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SEATTLE



January 22, 2015

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

Sent via email to supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: JISC Rule 13 – Electronic Court Records Systems

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

On behalf of the Seattle Municipal Court, I am writing to express opposition to the passage of Judicial Information System Committee Rule 13 Concerning Local Court Systems (JISCR 13). Until further analysis has been completed outlining the impacts of this rule to our justice system, I am requesting the Supreme Court not pass this rule at this time. Seattle Municipal Court, along with the King County District and Superior Court, has previously expressed our concerns related to JISCR 13, and it is not my intent to reiterate them here. However, I would like to express the following additional concerns with the proposed JISCR 13.

Regarding JISCR 13 Section (a), we appreciate that this rule provides a clear definition for electronic court records and we do not have objections to this provision.

Regarding JISCR 13 Section (b), we propose the following change: *"All electronic court record systems must receive the approval of the Judicial Information System Committee.* Notice of the proposed development must be provided to the Judicial Information System Committee and the Administrative Office of the Courts in advance of the commencement of such projects for the purpose of understanding the court's intent in moving to a non-JIS system and to ensure that a court's solution will provide necessary information to JIS and Washington Courts.

The Seattle Municipal Court believes that the AOC's role should be limited to the review of the court's proposed electronic court record system to ensure that the JIS Data Standards will be met. AOC should stand ready to provide technical advice to courts to identify gaps in the provision of data and identify solutions that courts can pursue. The common goal of maintaining data integrity and creating a data repository at the AOC should be priority and the overarching consideration.

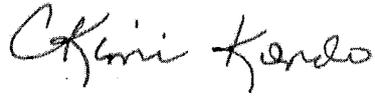
Regarding JISCR 13 Section (c), we believe this section should be modified and rewritten. The way this section is currently written appears to be punitive to those jurisdictions who may currently or in the future decide to adopt or remain with Alternative Electronic Court Record Systems. No current systems are capable of meeting the existing JIS Data standards. The AOC itself has indicated that they are not currently capable of meeting the existing JIS Data standards; nor is it clear that the Superior Court's CMS application (Tyler's Odyssey system) will meet those standards.

Additionally, AOC also admits that the JIS Data Standards will change over time. However, there is nothing in this rule that protects courts that elect to use an alternative electronic court record system from incurring additional increased costs if AOC makes future changes to the Data Standards. The accelerated adoption of the JIS Data Standards and JISCR 13 is problematic. Additionally, the Legislative proviso language included was intended to apply to Superior courts. As written, the rule attempts to exercise more control over limited jurisdiction court technology decisions than the legislature intended.

Seattle Municipal Court and several other courts were forced to seek alternative case management systems after failed attempts to work with AOC on potential solutions. Adoption of this rule without considering the issues expressed by these courts will continue to balkanize the Washington State Court System.

JISCR 13 as proposed has far reaching implications for Washington State Courts. . More time should be allowed in order to develop a proposed rule that is acceptable to all courts. I am requesting a two month delay in considering JISCR 13 in order to allow interested courts to work with the AOC and JISC in drafting a rule that will be more reasonable and attainable for all courts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Kimi Kondo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honorable C. Kimi Kondo, Presiding Judge
Seattle Municipal Court

Cc: All SMC Judges and Magistrates
Yolande E. Williams, Court Administrator and SMC Executive Leadership Team

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 8:27 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: JISC Rule 13 - Electronic Court Records Systems
Attachments: JISCRule13Finaltr.pdf

From: Headen, Erica [mailto:Erica.Headen@seattle.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 6:21 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject: JISC Rule 13 - Electronic Court Records Systems

To: the Clerk of the Supreme Court

I respectfully submit comments on behalf of the Municipal Court of Seattle concerning the passage of Judicial Information System Committee Rule 13 - Local Court Systems (JISCR 13).
The attached electronic proposal is signed by the Honorable C. Kimi Kondo, Presiding Judge.

A hard copy of the letter will also be submitted via U.S. mail to: P. O. Box 40929, Olympia, WA 98504-0929

I can be contacted via the information listed below if further information is needed.
Regards,

Erica Headen

Erica Headen | *OOO Executive Assistant*
Erica.Headen@seattle.gov
Judicial Chambers
Seattle Municipal Court
600 Fifth Ave., P.O. Box 34987
Seattle, WA 98124
P: 206.684-8708 | F: 206 615-0766