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## **PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE**

Welcome to 2022! I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and new year. January is a good time to step back, reflect on the previous year, and plan the upcoming year. What is true for the individual is also true for the CLJ-CMS Project. The last few months have been crucial to the project, and I'm happy to report that we're starting 2022 off on a good foot. There is much work to be done, but we're on track and heading in the right direction.

In case we haven't met yet, I am Garret Tanner, the Project Manager for CLJ-CMS. I'd like to share a little of my background and how I came to work for the CLJ-CMS Project.

My career in Project Management began over a decade ago when I helped build a Project Management Office for an Inc. 5000 software company serving, among many others, the Federal Aviation Administration, California Technology Agency, Customs and Border Protection, and the City of Miami Beach.



### **JUDGES**

Presiding Judges - In future when you see this box on the first page of the newsletter, please know that the content within it will be of specific interest to you. We will do this to ensure we are being respectful of your time and attention.

### **COURT STAFF**

Court Staff and Technical Specialists - In future when you see this box, please know that the content within it will be of specific interest to you. We will have business guidance and tips briefly summarized for you here, with a link to a lengthier article for more information. We will do this to ensure we are being respectful of your time and enabling you to follow up on the topics that directly affect your work.



Following that, I spent several years as an implementation consultant for a software company that was modernizing the food safety industry using mobile technologies. Then I moved into the role of a Technical Project Manager and SCRUM Master for an eSolutions company supporting electronic filing in a number of key demographics including Los Angeles County, Orange County, Cook County, Illinois, and others. Most recently, I served as Project Manager for the County of Marin's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) modernization project. In 2021, my partner and I (and our two dogs) relocated from California to Washington to start our next adventure. I started with the project as Deputy

Project Manager in May 2021, and as of December 2021 have taken Catherine Robinson's place as Project Manager.

2022 marks the year of our first Go-Live event with pilot courts. As the CLJ-CMS team continues with the configuration and testing of the new case management system, our vendor likewise continues making progress on a number of development projects designed to support the unique business needs of the courts of limited jurisdiction. Soon we'll be engaging with our pilot courts on a number of fronts including infrastructure, training, and general organizational readiness. We'll be sharing our rollout plan with our pilot courts in March.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in this project for their continued support. From the courts, our project team and project sponsors, to our Project Steering Committee and the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) - this project would not be where it is without you. Here's to a successful 2022.

**Garret Tanner**  
**Project Manager**



**GETTING TO KNOW CLJ-CMS PROJECT  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER  
MELANIE VANEK**

Melanie Vanek is a leader within the Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA) and a voting member of the CLJ-CMS Project Steering Committee (PSC). Her work in probation started with an internship in college; she'd planned to test for law enforcement, but found she loved working in probation so much, she never left. Melanie has been the Probation Officer for Issaquah Municipal Court since June 2012 and has now worked in the court community for 22 years.

Many members of the MPA are excited about the CLJ-CMS Project finally being implemented. Melanie shares the MPA's eagerness for a new system. "Probation departments have always maintained independent databases, so sharing of information has been difficult. With a statewide system, it will be much easier to share information and better serve our courts and the community. There are many MPA members that have worked for years to get a statewide system in place, so it is exciting to be included in this project and see it come together." As a member of the PSC, she wants the CLJ community to be aware that "the Committee has worked diligently to include all levels and types of CLJ's when making decisions on this project, in order to provide a product that brings courts together statewide, while still meeting individual court needs." As a user of Tyler Supervision (formerly CaseloadPRO), she is excited for departments statewide to utilize and connect with this case management system.

Some of the most rewarding moments in her work happen when past probationers stop by or call her, "sometimes even well after their case is closed, to let me know how well they are doing and things they have accomplished since completing supervision." She recalls a particularly memorable interaction – "After a rocky start, a probationer of mine graduated successfully several years ago. She still comes in to give updates and check-in. She finished her GED, went on to take college classes, and has been in the process of becoming a certified vet tech." Connecting with probationers and sharing in their continued success helps Melanie to keep her passion for working with defendants to leave what can be a revolving door of the criminal justice system. She has recently also been involved with her court's new Community Court that started in August 2021 and is excited to work with participants in a different type of court environment.

On a personal note, Melanie is a proud mom to a very active and amazing eight-year old, Carter, and she is looking forward to spending more time with her wonderful family both in the US and across the pond in England. She loves to travel with her family, and they are looking forward to resuming their adventures soon. Melanie is also serious about her love of hiking; she previously trained to hike Mt. Rainier for a fundraiser, but COVID has pushed to a new goal of 2022!



**Melanie Vanek**  
**Project Steering Committee Member**

## **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK OR FEEDBACK TO PROVIDE?**

Questions, comments, and feedback related to this newsletter and the CLJ-CMS Project are welcomed at [CLJCMSProject@courts.wa.gov](mailto:CLJCMSProject@courts.wa.gov).