WASHINGTON COURTS

March 6, 2015

TO: JISC Data Dissemination Committee

FROM: Stephanie Happold, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

RE: RACFIDs for Spokane County IT Personnel Permanently Assigned to the Spokane County Superior Court.

Issue

Can county IT personnel permanently assigned to the Spokane County Superior Court be allowed RACFIDs?

Background and Recommendation

Spokane County Superior Court is requesting three county IT personnel who are permanently assigned to it be given RACFIDs to conduct work for the County Courts and Clerk's Office. These three individuals also signed confidentiality agreements that are on-file with the Court. The AOC is unable to provide this access because the IT personnel are county executive employees and not court employees. Therefore, the request is being brought before the Data Dissemination Committee (DDC) to review.

The JIS Committee (JISC) authorized the DDC to act on its behalf in reviewing and acting on requests for JIS access by non-court users.[1] The DD Policy sets forth criteria which this Committee may use in deciding these requests:

- The extent to which access will result in efficiencies in the operation of a court or courts.
- The extent to which access will enable the fulfillment of a legislative mandate.
- The extent to which access will result in efficiencies in other parts of the criminal justice system.
- The risks created by permitting such access.[2]

During the past year, the Committee discussed drafting a policy to allow JIS access for non-court IT personnel working with the courts on specific projects. Committee members expressed concern in allowing executive branch employees to be given court user access to JIS data, while also realizing the important work these IT personnel do for the courts and the clerk's offices. The Committee tabled the draft policy to be reviewed at a later time.

[1] JISC Bylaws, Article 7, Secs. 1 and 2.
[2] DD Policy, Sec. IX.C.

AOC Staff asserts that this request is different than what was previously discussed by the Committee, because the IT personnel are executive branch employees, but they are permanently assigned to the Superior Court and are supervised by the County Courts and Clerk's Office. Their access will be solely for, and monitored by, these offices. If any of the three are reassigned, than the Court will contact the AOC and the RACFID will be revoked. As the IT staff will be used only for much needed judicial branch-related work, AOC staff recommends issuing RACFIDs for the three IT Personnel mentioned in Judge Cozza's letter.