WASHINGTON COURTS

**April 24, 2015**

**TO:** JISC Data Dissemination Committee

**FROM:** Stephanie Happold, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

**RE:** Anthony Schick request for unpaid restitution and fines financial data for Fish and Wildlife cases since 2000

## Issue

Can the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) release financial information to Anthony Schick and the Oregon Public Broadcasting?

## Background and Recommendation

Anthony Schick, a journalist working for Oregon Public Broadcasting, previously requested case information from the AOC for violations of chapter 77.15 RCW from 2000 to present. After reviewing the provided data, Mr. Schick requested the financial data on unpaid restitution and fines related to these cases. The AOC is not authorized to release financial data from the AOC Data Warehouse. 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 granted the ACLU its request for financial data housed in the AOC Data Warehouse. AOC staff recommends approval of Mr. Schick's request, however, with conditions similar to those imposed on the ACLU. Mr. Schick should meet with AOC staff to ensure there is an understanding of the data requested and what can reliably be provided. Also, the reports should be reviewed by a person delegated by this Committee. Last, the cost recovery fees should be applied and include the time spent meeting with the AOC staff to understand the desired data.

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