MEASURES FOR JUSTICE

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JISC Data Dissemination Committee
Washington State Courts

Via email to: Stephanie.Happold@courts.wa.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Gipsy Escobar, I am the Assistant Director of Research and Analytics at Measures for Justice, a research non-profit dedicated to measuring the delivery of local criminal justice services. We are working on a national study looking at the processing of criminal cases at the county level. The Washington State AOC has provided us with a considerable amount of data from the JIS-Link and SCOMIS systems but there are a few data elements they could not provide, specifically related to financial data for criminal court cases and they suggested we contact you with this special request.

The dataset we are currently working with contains all criminal adult cases filed in court between January 1st, 2009 and December 31st, 2013. We would like to gather information on financial obligations set by the court. For our purposes, this would include:

- **Court fees:** amount assessed by type of fee (or total amount assessed if type is not available), balance to date.
- **Fines and restitution:** whether the defendant was sentenced to pay a fine and/or restitution, the amount sentenced to pay, balance to date.
- **Judgments for failing to pay financial obligations to the court:** whether the defendant has received additional penalties for failing to pay financial obligations to the court.
- **Bail:** whether bail was imposed on the defendant, the set bail amount (with bail setting date), the posted bail amount (with bail posting date), and adjusted bail amounts, if applicable.

Thank you for considering this data request. I appreciate any guidance you are able to provide and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Gipsy Escobar, PhD
Assistant Director of Research & Analytics
Measures for Justice