WASHINGTON COURTS

August 28, 2015

TO: JISC Data Dissemination Committee

FROM: Stephanie Happold, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

RE: The News Tribune request for boating under the influence financial information.

Issue

Can the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) release boating under the influence financial case/charge information to The News Tribune?

Background and Recommendation

Ms. Melissa Santos, a reporter with The News Tribune, submitted a data request to the AOC that included information about assessed penalties and amount paid for boating under the influence (BUI) violations charged under RCW 79A.60.040(2) and RCW 7.80.120(1)(a)(ii). The AOC is not authorized to release any financial data contained in 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 several requests for financial data housed in the AOC Data Warehouse. AOC staff recommends approval of The News Tribune's request, however, with conditions similar to those imposed on the other requestors:

- The Requestor meets with AOC data personnel to ensure there is an understanding of what data is requested and what can be reliably provided. (For example, clarification whether the data sought is based on the case or charge.)
- The reports are reviewed by a person delegated by this Committee.
- The cost recovery fees are 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.