WASHINGTON COURTS

June 23, 2017

TO: JISC Data Dissemination Committee

FROM: Stephanie Happold, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

RE: Raising Public Index Fees and Amending Contract Language

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) would like to raise the annual fees for each public index subscription it offers. For PSCI, CLJCRIM, and CLJCIV indexes, the increase would be from $1800 to $3600. For SINDEX, it would be from $840 to $1680, and for the probate index it would be from $600 to $1200. Reasons for these increases are in anticipation of providing the data on a weekly basis instead of quarterly or monthly, the amount of staff time used in managing and maintaining these indexes, and the rate amounts have not been reviewed since 2001 when they were first set.

Though the judicial branch does not adhere to the Fiscal Growth Factor (FGF), AOC still used it in assessing the proposed rates. The FGF is a quasi-inflation rate used by the Legislature to assess increases in fees. When applying the FGF to the amounts proposed, they all fall within the calculation.

The AOC also would like the Committee to review the language in section 9 of the public index contracts pursuant to court rule GR 31(g)(1).[1] The Committee recently directed AOC to include the existence of sealed adult cases in the JABS DCH public tab. Currently, section 9.1 of all the public index contracts requires subscribers to remove cases that are sealed. As the contracts have not been reviewed by the Committee since 2005, this may be a good time to amend that section if needed.

[1] GR 31(g)(1) states: A dissemination contract and disclaimer approved by the JIS Committee for JIS records or a dissemination contract and disclaimer approved by the court clerk for local records must accompany all bulk distribution of court records.