WASHINGTON
COURTS

**February 8, 2024**

**TO:** Data Dissemination Committee

**FROM:** Kevin Cottingham, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

**RE:** Request from Misty Mann for JABS Access

Ms. Misty Mann is a manager with a local branch of Friendship Diversion Services, a diversion service provider contracted with several courts. She contacted AOC to obtain elevated access to JIS-Link & JABS, but her request was denied because she does not fit into one of the already-established categories entitling a requestor to elevated access.

AOC recommends that the DDC deny the request from Ms. Mann, as she would be well-served by JIS-Link's public access or by using any of the other publicly-available applications run by AOC. JABS access allows users to view information generally marked confidential, including juvenile dates of birth and driver's license numbers, and should only be granted where there is specific need. AOC makes this recommendation for two reasons.

First, Ms. Mann's present request does not currently fit into any established user class of JABS/JIS-Link. Broadly speaking, such access is given to prosecutors, public defenders, private investigators working with conflict attorneys, law enforcement, state agencies, and contracted civil legal aid societies, and these restrictions reflect the real risk that accompanies any application that makes non-public information accessible—each individual with access to the information increases the chance that some pieces of nonpublic information be improperly disseminated. The DDC has struck a balance that serves justice partners well, meeting statutory obligations to people entitled to receive data while preserving the security of the data in the system.

Second, there is no need for elevated access to court systems in the present request. Ms. Osborne's searches can be performed using Odyssey, JIS-Link or AOC's public case search. Most data points specifically mentioned by Ms. Mann in her appeal letter to the DDC—criminal history, charges and warrants—are all easily available in a public level search of JIS-Link; addresses are admittedly not provided, but could be provided on an individual basis by courts or prosecutors when participants are assigned to the

program. AOC concedes that JABS is largely more user-friendly than JIS-Link, but the public application is actively being developed and convenience should not justify the risk of exposing confidential data. AOC has an employee dedicated to managing development of JIS-Link, and AOC would recommend that Ms. Mann list the ways in which AOC could rework JIS-Link to meet her needs; such development could benefit all public users statewide.

It is, however, well within the authority of this committee to expand the categories of allowed user classes, and the work that Ms. Mann and other similarly-situated requestors perform is surely beneficial to the judiciary. If the DDC were to ultimately grant access, AOC would recommend establishing a level 20 account requiring a service agreement at the organization level with confidentiality agreements for all individual users, as this would minimize the risk of exposure of data.