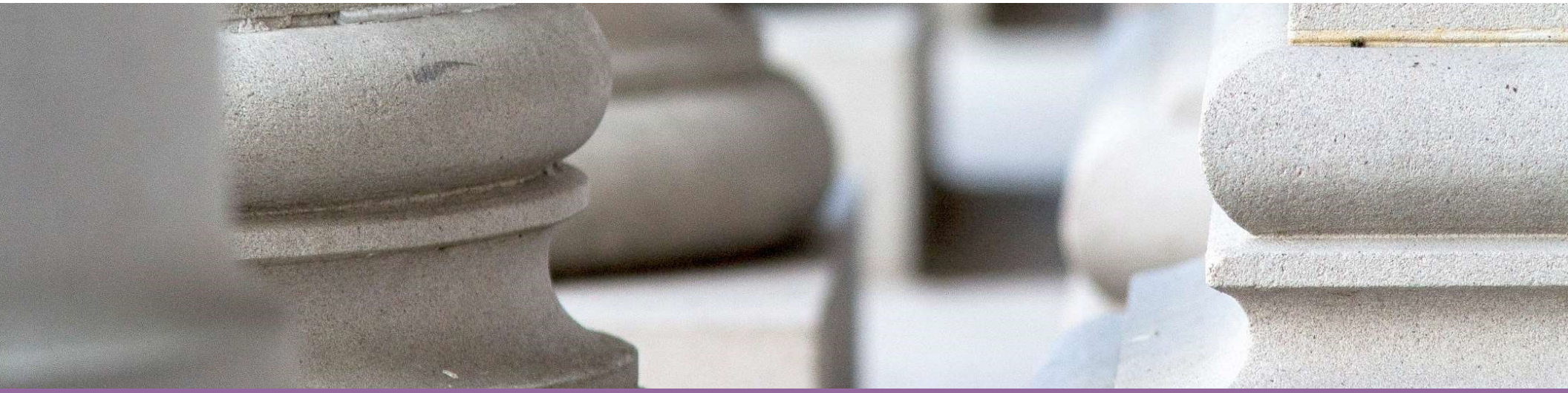

WASHINGTON COURTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

DDC Overview & Training

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State of the JIS

- GR 31: The judicial information system is the automated, centralized, statewide information system that serves the state courts
- AOC-maintained systems: new (Odyssey, CLJ-CMS) and old (SCOMIS, DISCIS), ACORDS
- Locally-maintained systems: KC-Script, LINX, some district and municipal courts

Enterprise Data Repository (EDR)

- Database into which all court records are fed

- Supplies records into statewide data warehouse (SDW), used for statewide reporting
  - Supplies public records, data feeds to other agencies, etc.

Access to JIS

- AOC-maintained systems: JIS-Link, JABS, Odyssey Portal
  - JIS-Link: public information for public case types
  - JABS (for external entities): depends on access type, but generally speaking, public and non-public information on public case types
    - Prosecutors: access to minimal information on sealed juvenile offender cases, per RCW 13.50.260(8)(c)
- Locally-maintained systems: KC-Script, LINX, etc.

- Generally speaking, access provided by AOC-maintained applications has been for court data, but as technology advances, documents are being provided

Data Dissemination Committee

- DDC created to govern matters of sending court data outside courts
- Data Dissemination: the reporting or other release of information derived from JIS records (DD policy)
  - Dissemination contract: an agreement between a court record provider and any person or entity, except a Washington State court (Supreme Court, court of appeals, superior court, district court or municipal court), that is provided court records. (GR 31(c)(6))

DDC Purview

- DDC established by Article 7 of the JISC Bylaws
- Six enumerated powers, first four most important:
  1. Review and act on requests for access to the JIS by non-court users in cases not covered by existing statute, court rule or JIS policy.
  2. Hear appeals on administrative denials of requests for access to the JIS or for dissemination of JIS data.
  3. Recommend to the JIS Committee policy on access to the JIS.
  4. Recommend to the JIS Committee changes to statutes and court rules regarding access to court records.

Requests for Access to the JIS

- Most frequent issue before DDC
- Generally for level 20 access (public cases but contains address information)
- Diversion groups, legal aid clinics, etc.

- Generally speaking, two motivating factors:
  - Cost
  - Ease of JABS use (groups all WIP cases together on one screen)

Data Dissemination Policy, Section IX.C.

C. Agencies requesting additional access under this provision shall identify the information requested and the proposed use(s). In reviewing such requests, the courts, the county clerks' offices, and the [DDC] will consider such criteria as:

1. The extent to which access will result in efficiencies in the operation of a court or courts.
2. The extent to which access will enable the fulfillment of a legislative mandate.
3. The extent to which access will result in efficiencies in other parts of the criminal justice system.
4. The risks created by permitting such access

Appeals on Administrative Denials

- AOC receives requests for bulk court data from state agencies, members of the public, researchers, etc.
- 99% of denials are worked out before any such appeal is necessary

- Example in recent history: Harvard researchers requested fee-waived JIS-Link account

JISCR 15(f) & GR 31(g)(4)

f) Criteria To Determine Release of Data. The criteria against which the applications are evaluated are as follows:
   1) Availability of data;
   2) Specificity of the request;
   3) Potential for infringement of personal privacy created by release of the information requested;
   4) Potential disruption to the internal, ongoing business of the courts

g) (4) The use of court records, distributed in bulk form, for the purpose of commercial solicitation of individuals named in the court records is prohibited

Recommend Policy to JISC

- Data Dissemination policy
- Adopted 1995. Revised 8 times.

- Additional protections beyond those in statute or rule; tends to anticipate trends better than other bodies
  - Addresses afforded protection through DD Policy
  - Limitations on dissemination of juvenile offender case data

Recommend Changes to Statutes and Court Rules

- Recent change to GR 15 to better explain protections on juvenile records

Other Powers

5. Request written opinions of the Washington State Office of the Attorney General through the State Court Administrator on questions of law related to access to and dissemination of JIS data.
6. Other powers as assigned by the JISC.

Miscellaneous

- WA constitution art. 1, section 10: Justice in all cases shall be administered openly, and without unnecessary delay.
- GR 31: The public shall have access to all court records except as restricted by federal law, state law, court rule, court order, or case law
- **No affirmative duty**

- Privacy is a moving target

- DDC is a policy-making body