Judicial Information System Committee Meeting July 19, 2013

DECISION POINT – JISC Bylaw Amendment: Data Dissemination Committee Requesting Attorney General Opinions

MOTION:

I move to approve an amendment to the JISC Bylaws to permit the Data Dissemination Committee to request formal and informal opinions from the Attorney General's Office through the State Court Administrator.

I. BACKGROUND

Among its duties, the JISC Data Dissemination Committee (DDC) is charged with acting on requests, and hearing appeals on administrative denials of requests, for JIS access by non-court users. On or about December 3, 2012, the Committee received a request from Data Driven Safety, Inc. (DDS) for traffic infraction information from cases disposed of within the last three years.

During the DDC meeting on February 12, 2013, the Committee discussed whether release of the JIS traffic infraction database is permitted under the JIS Data Dissemination Policy and under federal law. Due to the Committee members' questions about the implications of state and federal law on the DDS request for the release of the traffic infraction case information, the Committee voted to ask the State Court Administrator to request an informal letter opinion from the Attorney General on this issue.

Requesting Attorney General opinions through the State Court Administrator is not among the specifically delineated powers of the DDC. On February 22, 2013, the JISC approved the DDC to request an information letter opinion from the Attorney General's Office through the State Court Administrator.

II. DISCUSSION

The Data Dissemination Committee asked the JISC to give the DDC the authority to directly request opinions from the Attorney General's Office through the State Court Administrator without having to first seek the approval of the JISC. On February 22, 2013, the JISC informally agreed to give the DDC that authority. This change in the JISC bylaws formalizes that decision.