Judicial Information System Committee Meeting February 24, 2017

DECISION POINT – Amendments to Data Dissemination Policy

MOTION:

I move to adopt the Data Dissemination Committee's proposed amendments to the Data Dissemination Policy.

I. BACKGROUND

The JISC Data Dissemination Policy (Policy) was promulgated by the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) pursuant to JISCRs 12 and 15(d). The Policy provides guidelines for the release of Judicial Information System (JIS) data. The last major review of the Policy was in 1998, with the exception of Section V being added in 2013.

The Data Dissemination Committee (DDC) was established by Article 7 of the JISC Bylaws. The DDC acts on behalf of the JISC to address issues regarding JIS access and dissemination of JIS data. The DDC also makes recommendations to the JISC on JIS policy and court rules governing access to court records.

During the past year, the DDC reviewed the Policy to correct scrivener's errors, update statute citations, and modernize the Policy to be consistent with GR 31 and current case law. Important changes to the Policy include:

- Allowing the dissemination of compiled reports, including defendant and individual case histories, to any requestor. Public requestors will only receive publically available cases.
- Establishing a process for fulfilling financial data requests submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
- Updating the list of confidential data elements.
- Prohibiting the dissemination of addresses contained in the case management systems unless the request or report falls under the exemptions provided in the Policy.
- Listing distinct dissemination allowances for the local courts and county clerk's offices in order to continue effective business practices and avoid an increase of staff work.

During its October 28, 2016, meeting the DDC unanimously approved the draft Policy and recommended it to the JISC for approval. AOC staff was also instructed to send it to all court, judicial partner, and county clerk associations for review and comment.

Based on questions and comments received during the review period, the DDC edited certain sections that required clarification and finalized the draft for JISC approval.

II. DATA DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Data Dissemination Committee recommends to the Judicial Information System Committee that it approve the draft Data Dissemination Policy.

III. OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED

Provide direction to the Data Dissemination Committee in amending the Data Dissemination Policy or provide edits as needed.