Judicial Information System Committee Meeting October 27, 2017

DECISION POINT – Odyssey Portal Access for Self-Represented Litigants

MOTION:

I move that the JISC approve the Self-Represented Litigants (SRL) Workgroup's proposal for SRL access to the Odyssey Portal.

I. BACKGROUND

In July 2016, the SC-CMS Court User Workgroup (CUWG) asked the SC-CMS Project Steering Committee to review a request from the Access to Justice Board (ATJ) to address the needs of self-represented litigants (SRL) who will access court records through Odyssey Portal (Portal). The Steering Committee requested that designees from the ATJ, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) create a proposal for SRL access to the Odyssey Portal for consideration by the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC). This SRL workgroup consisted of John Bell, Kathy Bradley, Vicky Cullinane, Thurston County Clerk Linda Myhre Enlow, Snohomish County Clerk Sonya Kraski, Elaine McLaughlin, and Sart (Brian Rowe).

II. DISCUSSION

The SRL Workgroup's goal is to provide recommendations that allow SRLs equal access, wherever possible, to the existing Portal "attorney of record" (AOR) security role. The proposed SRL security role addresses GR 22 requirements and confidentiality and safety risks for parties and participants in all case types, including those with active protection orders.

The SRL Workgroup's proposal is as follows: Upon registration, the proposed Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) Portal role would provide access to all publicly available case information (court dockets), <u>without access to case documents</u>, similar to the Portal JIS-Link Level-01 role. For all cases where the SRL is a party of record, county clerks would grant elevated access, <u>including access to case documents</u>.

Access to the Odyssey Portal by SRLs will require AOC staff to create a new Portal SRL security role and Party ID override. A new "Pro Se" or "SRL" party type would need to be created on the "Manage Odyssey Portal User Access page. The proposal assumes that AOC and county clerk staff will use existing resources to develop and implement the SRL role. The proposal assumes that the WSACC and/or county clerk's offices will create instructional materials for the SRL registration process. The proposal also assumes ongoing AOC business and technical support.

III. PROPOSAL

The JISC should approve the self-represented litigant roles and access process as proposed by the Self-Represented Litigants Workgroup.

IV. OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED

If the JISC does not approve an access role for self-represented litigants in the Odyssey Portal, self-represented litigants who are parties of record on cases will not have access to electronic documents for those cases.