WASHINGTON COURTS

# Blake Refund Application

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# The Blake Decision

- The Blake decision found the state's main drug possession statute unconstitutional
- This impacted tens of thousands of individuals, requiring their convictions to be "vacated" by the court of record
  - Impacted individuals are entitled to request refunds of certain monies they paid related to the case
- During the recently concluded legislative session, convictions related to certain cannabis and paraphernalia offenses were added to the list of crimes that must be vacated

# Current Refund Process

- The legislature has provided funds to reimburse courts for activities related to the Blake Decision

- Courts vacate convictions, order refunds, while the administrative arm of courts track staff time required for this work
  - AOC reimburses the courts for the costs incurred by the court and court personnel

- This process is in effect until June 30, 2023

# New Refund Process

- AOC has established a Blake Refund Bureau
- Beginning July 15, 2023, AOC will directly pay refunds on cases that have been vacated
- AOC will provide a web application that allows the public to search for their case online, confirm their identity and address, and apply for a refund through the website

# Blake Refund Application

Major Functional Areas

1. Intake of Eligible Cases – Receive data on vacated cases from courts and manage that data
2. Public Search for Eligible Cases – Provide the ability to find their vacated cases
3. Initiate Refund Requests – Allow individuals to initiate a refund request and provide proof of identification
4. Manage Refund Requests – AOC processes and approves/rejects requests

# Who Uses the Application

Court Staff

- Will send data related to each vacated case to AOC
- View-only access to all Blake system records

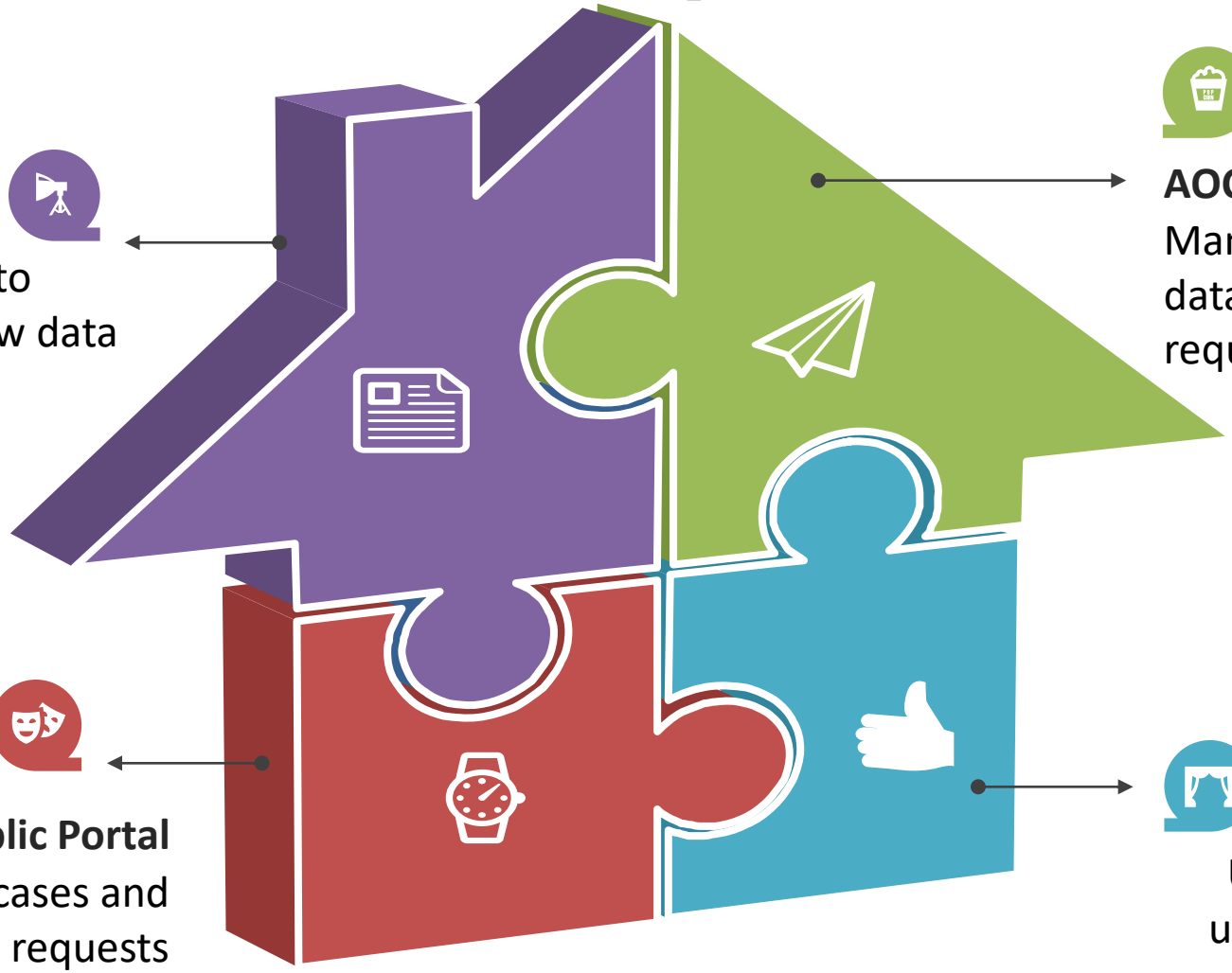
AOC Staff

- Search, view, and update records stored in the system
- Update status, and other elements, of refund requests
- Run reports on data stored in the system

Public Users

- Search case records using name and case number
- Select a case record on which to initiate a refund request
- Initiate the refund request and provide proof of identity

# Blake Portal Components



**Clerk Portal**
Clerk access to upload & view data

**AOC Portal**
Manage case data and refund requests

**Public Portal**
Search cases and initiate refund requests

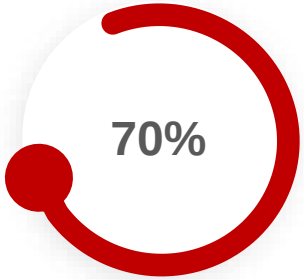
**External IdP**
Users creates a unique account.

# Portal Building Progress

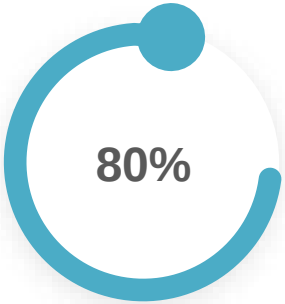
Clerk Portal

AOC Portal

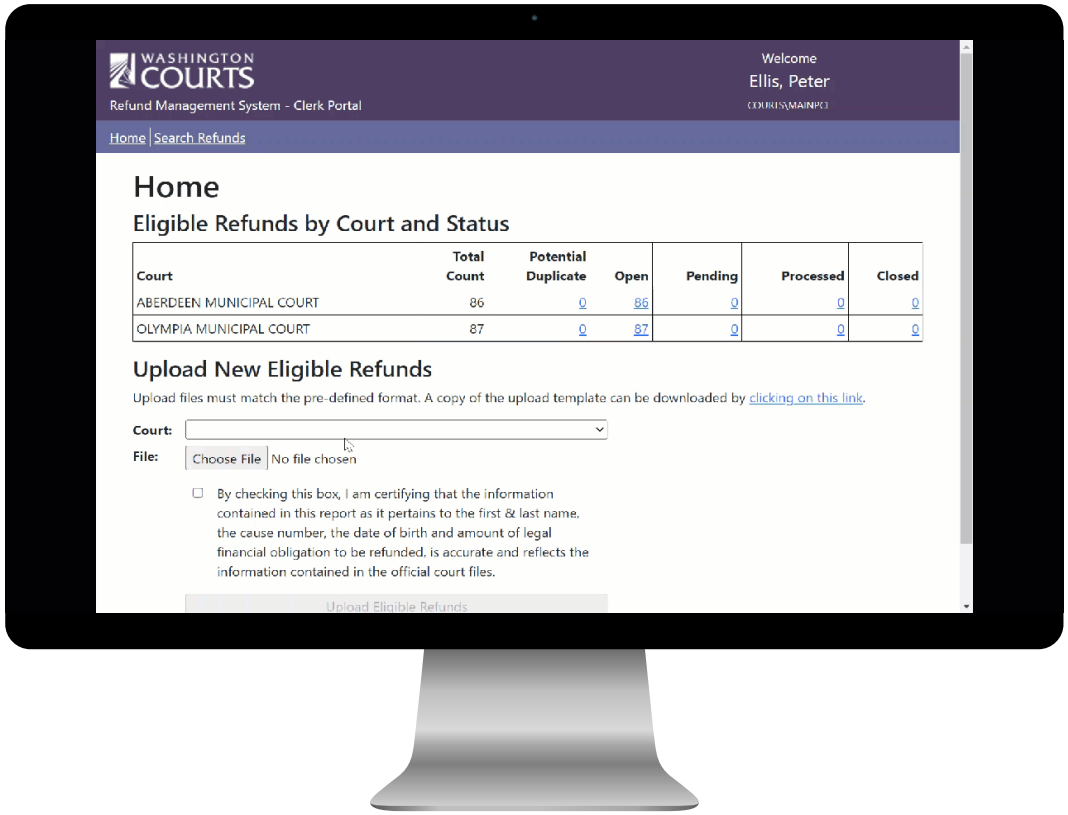
Public Portal




External IdP

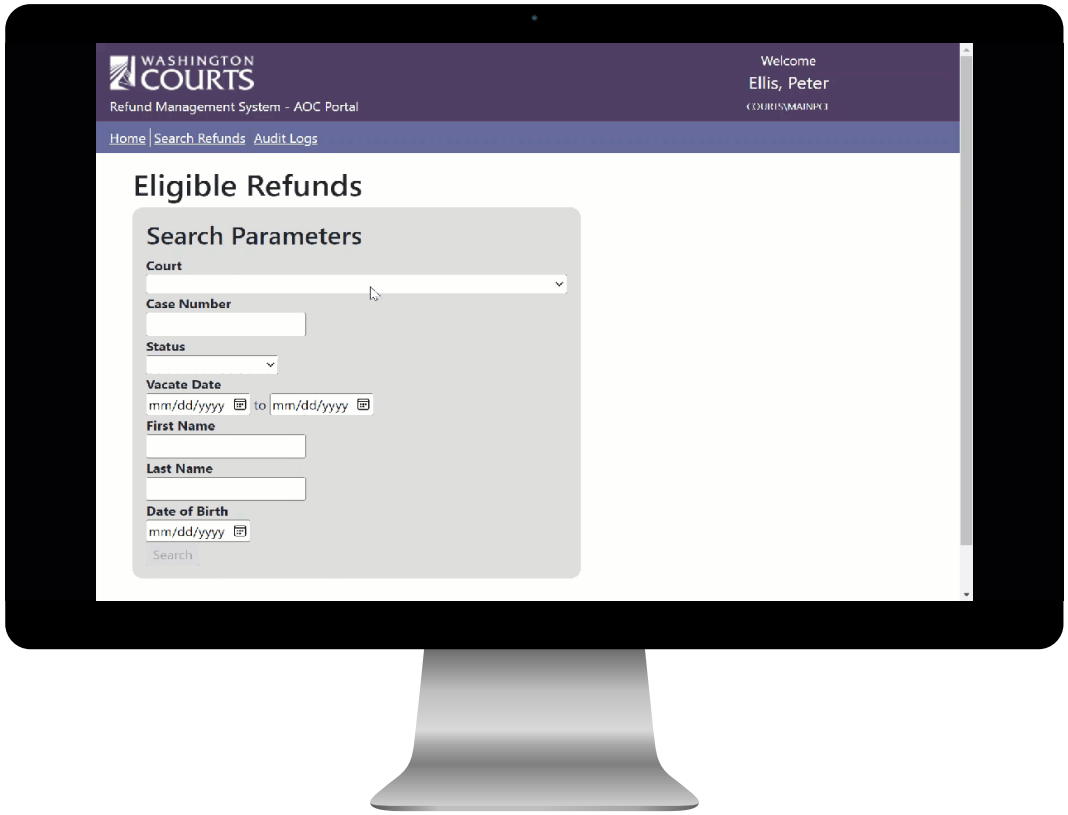


# Clerk Portal



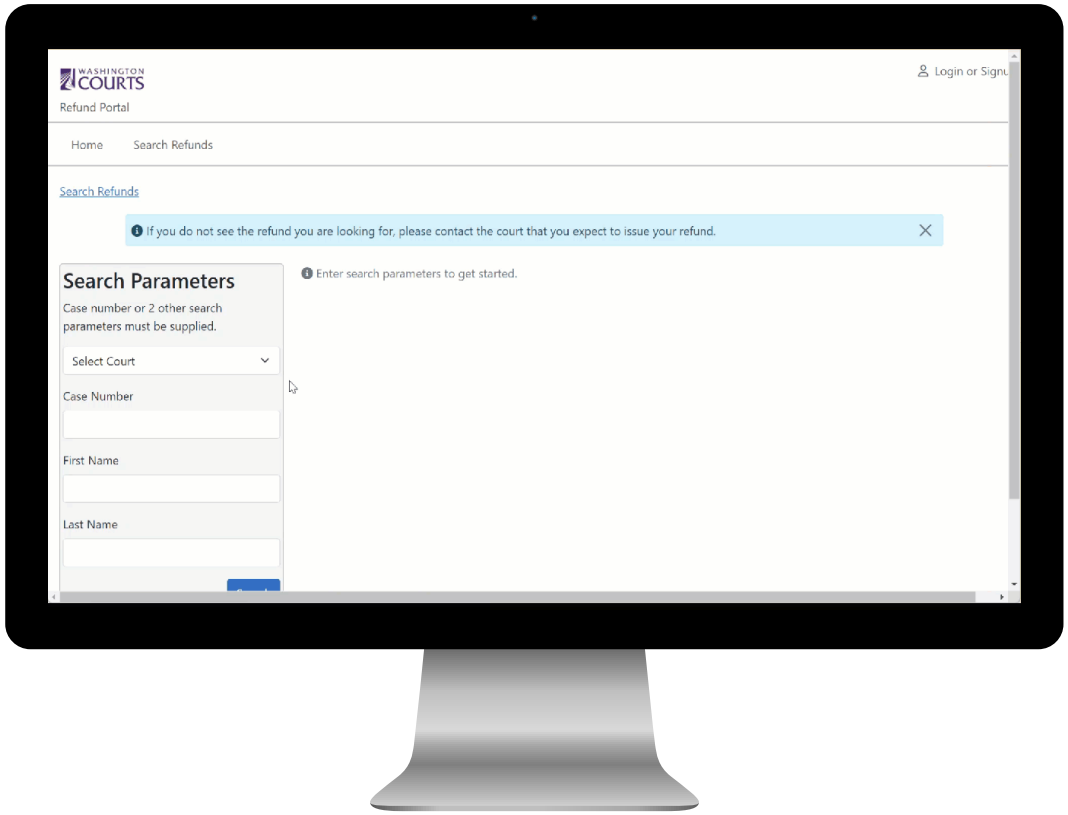

The clerks portal allows courts to upload information into the Refund System and search for eligible refunds that have been uploaded. This demo shows the upload process.

# AOC Portal




The AOC portal allows AOC staff to search for and manage refund requests. This demo shows the eligible refund search process.

# Public Portal




The public portal allows public individuals to search for an eligible case and file a request for a refund. The demo is showing how to search using case number then login using Google account then file & submit the refund request

# Questions?