Judicial Information System Committee Meeting August 25, 2023

<u>DECISION POINT</u> – Authorize and Prioritize Information Technology Governance (ITG) Request #1355- Replace Appellate Court Case Management and E-Filing Systems

MOTION:

I move that ITG Request #1355 be authorized.

I. BACKGROUND

The case management system used by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals since 2003 is the Appellate Court Record and Data System (ACORDS). Modifications to this aging system are prohibitively risky, since changes are known to produce system instability. This risk prevents delivery of needed enhancements, resulting in the inability to meet current court needs. ACORDS lacks the reporting capabilities needed by the courts. Additionally, ACORDS lacks a modern court calendaring solution that would enable staff to schedule, conduct, and report on court hearings. These shortcomings require court staff to manually schedule, maintain, and report on all court hearings.

The e-File solutions are separate applications which require significant integration and support. They are built on a code base which is difficult to support due to a lack of sufficient development resources. The e-File solutions lack automated error handling and monitoring capabilities. This requires AOC staff to manually check for and correct issues with e-files on a daily basis.

II. DISCUSSION

The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals rely on AOC to provide the IT solutions that enable them to record and track cases for direct review and appeal. Cases are primarily filed via two e-File systems, one for public, and one for Department of Corrections (DOC) incarcerated individuals. Case management tasks include entering case information (details, participants, events, etc.), into the case management system. Additionally, case files are created, stored, and routed using the document management system. Court staff also produce reports, create and manage court calendars, notify parties, display calendars on a public-facing website, and manage the confirmations that result from the notifications.

Through this request, the AOC document business requirement, conduct an options analysis, and will purchase a COTS technology solution to replace ACORDS and the Appellate e-File Portal in order to attain a modernized and updated case management system and E-filing system.

III. OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED –

The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals will continue to use an increasingly antiquated and aging case management and e-filing system that the AOC will find more difficult to maintain.