



SKAGIT COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Larry E. Moller Building

600 South Third Street

P.O. Box 340

Mount Vernon, Washington 98273-0340

(360) 336-9319 Fax (360) 336-9318

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: JISCR 13

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I support passage of the proposed amendments to JISCR 13 and ask you and the rest of the Supreme Court to vote accordingly.

As our aged case management infrastructure has been called upon to function in modern times, its' limitations have become glaringly apparent. In response some of our trial courts from forward thinking jurisdictions with money have chosen to implement modern alternative case management systems. In the main, these systems are unable to communicate with the state maintained system and information from these courts finds its way to the state system in truncated form or not at all. As a result, judges and court staff state-wide lack critical information they need to perform their jobs effectively.

JISCR 13 sets standards for the information that needs to be entered into the Judicial Information System by every court. This requirement is absolutely essential to a state-wide system. Indeed, in many instances state law requires a judge to take certain actions but said judge would be unaware of the need to take action when the information is unavailable because it was never entered into the system.

JISCR 13 also makes receipt of JIS funding dependent upon the recipient court's compliance with data entry requirements. This is certainly consistent with the legislature's stated purpose when allocating monies for the JIS and, further, is consistent with the strictures the legislature enacted relative to the Superior Court case management system.

This is a pivotal juncture for our statewide system. Without data standards that are enforced, no useful unified system can exist. I applaud the pioneering spirit of the handful of innovative courts that have researched and implemented their own case management systems. Unfortunately, these systems are implemented to the prejudice

of the remaining majority of the courts so long as there are no enforceable data standards.

This past year when I was President of the District and Municipal Court Judge's Association, I dedicated my efforts to moving the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction case management system forward. I appreciate to monumental efforts made by AOC and members of the Supreme Court in moving that effort forward nearly five years. I fear that the diaspora of the larger, more financially secure courts from the state maintained case management system threatens implementation of a new system to the detriment of two hundred plus remaining district and municipal courts. Mr. Spock said it best when he noted that "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." I am hopeful that the case management system project now underway will result in a product that meets the needs of all. For the present, however, adoption of amended JISCR 13 will safeguard the ability of the many to effectively and consistently apply the law.

The decision before the Supreme Court requires that it take a firm position on data standards. In weighing this issue I urge you to consider JISCR 1 which calls for a statewide system "to serve the courts of the state of Washington."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Svaren", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David A. Svaren

Cc: Hon. Charles Johnson
Hon. Susan Owens
Hon. Mary E. Fairhurst
Hon. Debra L. Stephens
Hon. Charles K. Wiggins
Hon. Steven C. González
Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud
Hon. Mary I. Yu