



Des Moines & Normandy Park Municipal Court

21630 11th Avenue South, Suite C
Des Moines, Washington 98198-6398

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

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I am writing to express my support for passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. Having served as municipal court judge for the City of Des Moines for almost seven years I cannot underscore enough the importance technology plays in the performance of my duties. All judges, whether serving in large urban districts or small rural communities are reliant upon information provided through technology in order to make decisions that impact the lives of individuals who appear before them, their families and the safety of their community at large. Everyone agrees that we are in the midst of a technological crisis and the need to harness technology to be better informed and more efficient courts is necessary.

The inability to use some of the newer technology to improve court efficiency has caused some courts, to go "off grid" and create their own case management systems whose information is primarily available at the local level. This has caused frustration with other courts, as information necessary to assist a judge in rendering a decision is hampered by the inability to fully access these local systems often times in contiguous jurisdictions.

It is not the intent of these proposed rules to stifle innovation or intrude upon the local practices of differing courts. Instead, these rules provide a baseline of information necessary to be input into the statewide system which will be accessible to all courts. Currently, courts are not required to provide minimum information to the statewide system leading to significant gaps in information for judges who are trying to make informed decisions. Without these rules, there is

no incentive to comply with any data standards, as evinced by jurisdictions who recently implemented their own systems.

There are over two hundred district and municipal courts throughout our state and each has different needs and requirements that are unique to their situation. However, we must recognize that while we may differ philosophically on how to best run our individual courts, we all need access to the same quantity and quality of information in order to perform our duties and provide justice to those we serve. As we move forward in our efforts to harness technology and its uses to help us become more informed and efficient courts, we must always be cognizant that we serve a justice system not a system for just us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Alicea-Galvan', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Veronica Alicea-Galvan

Presiding Judge Des Moines Municipal Court

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

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 11:12 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW:
Attachments: 4153_001.pdf

Here you go.

Kris Triboulet
Receptionist/Secretary
Washington State Supreme Court
Kristine.triboulet@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2077

From: Veronica Alicea-Galvan [mailto:VAlicea-Galvan@desmoineswa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 11:11 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject:

Good Morning,

Attached please find my letter of support with regards to proposed changes to JISC Rule 13.

Sincerely,

Judge Veronica Alicea Galvan
Des Moines Municipal Court