



WASHINGTON STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY CLERKS

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January 22, 2015

RECEIVED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
Jan 22, 2015, 1:50 pm
BY RONALD R. CARPENTER
CLERK

Barbara Madsen, Chief Justice
Washington Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
415 12th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RECEIVED BY E-MAIL

RE: JISCR 13

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

Thank you for the review and comment period on JISCR 13.

On behalf of the Washington State Association of County Clerks I write to express our request that the proposed changes to JISCR 13 not be adopted. We share the belief that shared court data is crucial to public safety, not to mention fully-informed decisions – but we don't think this rule will help get us there.

Subsection (c) is concerned solely with a threat to cut off JIS Account funds to courts with alternative systems unless they comply with data standards set in JISC policy. These data standards have recently been greatly expanded with no provision to automate data sharing between the non-JIS courts and a statewide data hub. In essence these courts, situated in jurisdictions that provide the lion's share of revenue to the JIS Account, are being told by the proposed JISCR 13 that they will do manual dual data entry into the case management systems provided by AOC or they will be cut off from all the benefits of the revenue they provide to the AOC.

Please step back and consider this from a local government perspective. Why would the independently elected local officials in the most populous and relatively prosperous areas of the state not now begin to lobby their legislators to change the rules of how JIS Account funds are collected, remitted and appropriated? Students of history know that when people have nothing left to lose they become unconstrained in their search for a different paradigm. The punitive tone and content of proposed JISCR 13 seems at a minimum to have been drafted for a political context that is perhaps different from the context in which your decision will be made.

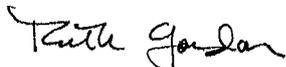
In addition to bringing forward this significant cautionary consideration, the County Clerks take issue with the 12 months' notice requirement in subsection (b). Why is 12 months needed when at the end of 12 months the alternative court is still going to have to do manual double data entry?

We respectfully request that you bear in mind that the local judicial, executive and legislative branches are charged with providing the best possible solutions they can devise to meet the needs of their constituents. A 12 month moratorium on pursuing a contract with a successful IT vendor is very unlikely to be workable. Thus the new longer lead time would have the effect of preventing any local technology solutions in jurisdictions that choose to comply with JISCR 13, and of inviting other jurisdictions to ignore JISCR 13 entirely in favor of fulfilling their duty to the citizens they serve. Retaining the current form of JISCR 13 avoids these unwelcome results.

If JISCR 13 is due for revision, we hope that it will be revised to address the long-deferred dream of efficient, robust, and inclusive data exchange at a price Washington State can afford. We acknowledge that this will require a paradigm shift, but paradigms are shifting all around us. The best standard of practice for data exchange is more robust and flexible than it once was and no longer requires individually coded exchanges for each specific exchange. Maybe we can all come together and "get there from here."

Please reject the changes to JISCR 13 as currently proposed, and let's keep working to come together in common purpose to create a mechanism that meets state and local needs and by which all courts and justice partners can have access to statewide judicial information.

With respect, and with appreciation for the opportunity to comment on this rule,



Ruth Gordon

President, Washington State Association of County Clerks

cc: The Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court
WSACC Members

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: JISCR 13 Comment - WSACC, opposed
Attachments: WSACC Comment on JISCR 13.pdf

From: Ruth Gordon [mailto:RGordon@co.jefferson.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:44 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK; Johnson, Justice Charles W.; Fairhurst, Justice Mary
Cc: Hinchcliffe, Shannon; Jennings, Cindy
Subject: JISCR 13 Comment - WSACC, opposed

Good Morning – Please find attached our Association’s comment in regard to proposed JISC Rule 13. If you have any follow-up questions I would welcome hearing from you. Thank you sincerely for the opportunity to engage in an inclusive conversation about this rule. I appreciate the chance to see this issue from other’s points of view.

Best wishes to everyone, Ruth

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