



Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

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James A. Bamberger, Director
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September 4, 2020

Hon. Debra Stephens, Chief Justice
Hon. Barbara Madsen, JISC Chair
Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Stephens and Justice Madsen:

On behalf of the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA), legal aid programs, and unrepresented litigants, I recommend that the Supreme Court favorably consider and adopt the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 relating to the availability of court information statewide. To effectively assist the representation of low-income people in Washington State, it is critical that legal aid providers – and unrepresented litigants -- have access to complete, accurate court records.

Every day low-income people and legal aid providers in Washington depend on access to information from courts all around the state. We know that some courts already have their own case management systems, and still more are planning separate systems. Without a mechanism for those courts to reliably share information, we lose critical information that we and the people we serve need to ensure equal access to justice.

The proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 provide a clear path for courts and AOC to plan for minimum disruption to statewide data sharing. They also make it clear that the JISC will settle any disagreements between courts and AOC on any temporary measures required to ensure that legal aid programs and unrepresented litigants continue to have information that is critical to fair and just outcomes. That is why the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 are so important.

We look forward to the Court's favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF CIVIL LEGAL AID

Bamberger,
James (OCLA)

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Bamberger, James (OCLA)
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James A. Bamberger
Director

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed JISCR 13 Amendments
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:34:48 PM
Attachments: [RE JISCR 13 Amendments 9-4-2020 signed.pdf](#)

From: Bamberger, James (OCLA) [<mailto:jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Stephens, Justice Debra L. <Debra.Stephens@courts.wa.gov>; Madsen, Justice Barbara A. <J_B.Madsen@courts.wa.gov>
Cc: Cullinane, Vicky <Vicky.Cullinane@courts.wa.gov>; Bamberger, James (OCLA) <jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov>
Subject: Proposed JISCR 13 Amendments

Greetings,

Please see OCLA's comments re the proposed amendments.

Jim Bamberger, Director
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I prefer he/him