

September 4, 2020

The Honorable Debra Stephens
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Debra:

I am writing to support passage of the proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13. As the former Chair of the JISC, I urge you to consider the importance of the proposed amendments to the availability of judicial information statewide.

During my 12 years as JISC Chair, I oversaw several proposals to update JISC Rule 13, which it definitely needs. This is the second time the JISC's proposal has reached the Supreme Court. The proposal before you represents the consensus agreement reached by a workgroup of stakeholders on both sides of the issue. That workgroup included representatives of courts with independent systems, specifically Judge Donna Tucker of King County District Court, Judge Scott Ahlf of Olympia Municipal Court, and Court Administrator Howard Delaney of Spokane Municipal Court. The workgroup met four times for three hours each time and worked to reach consensus on every word of the proposed language. The JISC passed the agreed language on a 13-1 vote.

It is crucial to public safety for all Washington courts and our justice partners to continue to have access to statewide judicial information. Every day the courts depend on access to information from other courts. A number of courts have purchased, or are planning to purchase, their own case management systems. As those courts move to their own systems, we lose critical information that judges and court staff need to do their jobs every day.

The proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 provide for clear communication and collaborative planning between courts and AOC to ensure minimum disruption to statewide data sharing. They also make the JISC the forum for settling any disagreements between courts and AOC regarding any temporary mitigation required to ensure that judicial officers and court staff have information that is critical to public safety.

The proposed amendments to JISC Rule 13 are very important. Please pass the proposed amendments to protect the integrity of the information the courts and our justice partners depend upon for the administration of justice. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mary E. Fairhurst
Former Chair
Judicial Information System Committee

cc: Hon. Charles Johnson

Hon. Barbara A. Madsen

Hon. Susan Owens

Hon. Steven C. González

Hon. Sheryl Gordon McCloud

Hon. Mary I. Yu

Hon. Raquel Montoya-Lewis

Hon. G. Helen Whitener

From: [Tracy, Mary](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Letter in support of amendments to JISC Rule 13
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 1:53:39 PM
Attachments: [JISCR 13 Support Template for 2020 En Banc-Justice Fairhurst.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Rule comment

Mary Tracy
Office/Case Manager
Washington State Supreme Court
(360) 357-2072
mary.tracy@courts.wa.gov

From: Jennings, Cindy
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Hinchcliffe, Shannon <Shannon.Hinchcliffe@courts.wa.gov>; Tracy, Mary <Mary.Tracy@courts.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter in support of amendments to JISC Rule 13

Sending this to both of you FYI.

From: Fairhurst, Justice Mary
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2020 8:13 AM
To: SUP DL - JUSTICES <SUPDL-Justices@courts.wa.gov>
Cc: SUP DL - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS <ADMINISTRATIVEASSISTANTS@courts.wa.gov>; Rubio, Dawn Marie <DawnMarie.Rubio@courts.wa.gov>; Diseth, Veronica <Vonnie.Diseth@courts.wa.gov>; Cullinane, Vicky <Vicky.Cullinane@courts.wa.gov>
Subject: Letter in support of amendments to JISC Rule 13

Please see the attached letter in support of amendments to JISC rule 13. Thank you. Hope you all are well and safe. Mary