



State of Kansas

## Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center  
301 SW 10<sup>th</sup>  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

(785) 296-2256

Joint Committee on Information Technology  
December 17, 2012

Kelly O'Brien  
Judicial Branch Chief Information Technology Officer

### **Judicial Branch Electronic Filing Project**

In May 2009, the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court appointed an electronic filing (e-filing) committee. The Committee studied EFS systems used in federal and other state courts, surveyed users of e-filing systems, prepared an implementation plan, sought and obtained statutory amendments necessary to authorize e-filing, studied business and procedural rules necessary to implement an EFS, and prepared a request for bids. An FY2010 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) provided funding for travel to attend a national court technology conference and for committee meetings. As a result of additional Justice Assistance Grants in FY2011 and FY2012, the Electronic Filing Committee completed a series of project milestones. In January 2010, the *Interim Report of the Kansas Supreme Court's Electronic Filing Committee* was accepted by the Supreme Court.

The Committee then worked with the Kansas Division of Purchases to release a Request for Information (RFI). The responses were reviewed in February 2010, and work began on creating a Request for Proposal (RFP). This RFP was released in late July 2010 followed by the confidential bidder review process and selection of the project vendor, Tybera Development Group, Inc.

Since vendor selection and finalization of the contract, Tybera staff members have worked with Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) staff and staff from our case management vendor to integrate electronic filing with both the appellate and district court CMS (case management system) and DMS (document management system) systems. A prototype system for initial testing was established at the vendor's location. A test system was established at OJA in September, with the production system being established in late November.

The Judicial Branch is currently in the implementation phase of the electronic filing pilot project. The appellate courts began accepting live filings from pilot project attorneys the week of December 3, 2012. District court pilot implementations are scheduled as follows:

Leavenworth County – January 2013  
Douglas County – March 2013  
Sedgwick County – April 2013

Joint Committee on Information Technology  
December 17-18, 2012  
Attachment 6

Following the implementation of the pilot courts, the first court scheduled in the statewide implementation roll-out is Shawnee County. This installation is scheduled for July 2013. Installation in the remaining district courts that use the FullCourt case management system will be dependent on funding. Johnson County will continue to operate and maintain its existing JIMS system for electronic filing.

### **Gartner Group Technology Infrastructure and Operations Impact Assessment**

The Kansas Judicial Branch has contracted with the Gartner Group to conduct a technology infrastructure and operations impact assessment in support of implementation of a centralized district court case management system. This assessment will provide a roadmap detailing specific recommendations required to make the transition from the current distributed case management environment to a centralized, web-based case management system for the district courts of Kansas. A centralized case management system will move the district courts from separate database installations in 104 counties to a single case management database. Benefits of this move include reduced staff time required to implement system changes, improved system maintenance, and enhanced ability for nonjudicial staff to remotely assist case management processing in other courts. A fully implemented centralized case management system will improve court efficiency, improve access to court information, and reduce the system administration burden of local distinct courts. This assessment is funded by a FY 2013 Justice Assistance Grant award.

The assessment will detail specific recommendations for the necessary technology, processes, staffing levels, and budget and business management practices required to implement a centralized case management system for the district courts.

The Gartner Group has conducted interviews of staff and data gathering to complete the assessment. Over the next several weeks, the draft report will be reviewed. The final report is scheduled to be delivered on January 16, 2013. This information will be used to continue planning for the implementation of the eCourts project.