



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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Joint Committee on Information Technology

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Electronic Filing

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Technology in the District Courts

The court system has always varied from district to district in terms how much and what type of technology has been employed. This is because counties are responsible for funding court operations other than salaries and wages, and the counties have responded with differing levels of interest and funding. The differing levels of county technology funding have resulted in a variety of district court computer systems that have made centralized reporting and data sharing a challenge for the courts.

In attempting to provide a centralized system, the challenge to the Judicial Branch has been to find a system that meets the needs of both rural and urban courts statewide; a system that provides features and functions that is attractive and usable for both courts with extensive technology experience and those with little or no experience. The challenge has also been to fund this project as a county/state partnership.

In November 2001, the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) began a statewide installation of a case management system called FullCourt. FullCourt fully integrates accounting, case management, document management, juvenile compliance, and jury all in one software package. Four pilot sites were selected: Anderson County (Garnett), Morris County (Council Grove), Pottawatomie County (Westmoreland), and Ellis County (Hays). The software was completely installed in 103 counties by October 2004. OJA will install FullCourt in Shawnee County in December of this year.

Judicial Branch Electronic Filing

The Judicial Branch is currently engaged in implementing the electronic filing pilot project. This project interfaces the centralized electronic filing system with the appellate courts' case management system and the distributed FullCourt case management system used in 103 of the 105 district courts in the state. (An additional district court, Shawnee County, is scheduled to implement FullCourt case management in December of 2013.) Johnson County uses, and will continue to use, a self-supported countywide system called JIMS.

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In an electronic filing environment, the case management and document management systems must be integrated. Data can be shared between these systems without reentering the information. The benefits of this integration include significantly faster and more accurate access to case information. For example, while it will be possible to perform text searches in the document management system to find papers, using this approach exclusively could prove inefficient because the same data formatted for document retrieval may exist in many other pleadings. In other words, every attempt to find a specific paper would produce multiple documents. The user would be required to sort through them to find the correct one. The case management system, integrated with the document management system, addresses this concern and provides a retrieval mechanism that serves as an index to the documents.

Live filings from pilot filers were processed using the electronic filing system by the Appellate Courts in December 2012. The first of three pilot district courts, Leavenworth County (1st Judicial District), began processing electronically filed documents from pilot filers in January 2013. This was followed by the remaining pilot district courts, Douglas County (7th Judicial District) in March 2013, and Sedgwick County (18th Judicial District) in April 2013.

The first court scheduled for the statewide rollout of electronic filing is Shawnee County in December 2013. Additional courts scheduled to be implemented in FY 2014 are Wyandotte County (29th Judicial District), Butler County (13th Judicial District), Reno County (27th Judicial District), Saline County (28th Judicial District), Finney County (25th Judicial District), and Geary County (8th Judicial District). The rollout of the system to the remaining 94 district court locations, contingent on funding, will occur in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Kansas OJA Filings and Dispositions Data Submission Interface

In 2011 the Legislature passed SB 6 requiring District Courts to submit DUI filing information electronically to the KBI Report and Police Impaired Driver portal (RAPID) by July of 2014. In order to comply with this mandate, Information Services was able to secure a grant from the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) through KDOT for \$435,000. This grant in conjunction with NCHIP grant will be used to hire Analyst International to analyze the data requirements and create the electronic data and disposition service to RAPID.

With the use of the TRCC grant, OJA will find savings in staff time that would otherwise be devoted to this project.

Because of the filing and disposition data submission to KBI, OJA, district court personnel, other agencies, and the public will realize intangible benefits, these include:

1. Timely and accurate reporting for arrests, court filings, and convictions. The plan to accomplish this includes:
 - a. Building quality control – accurately notify agencies of missing data; and,
 - b. Building in performance standards (the frequency of reporting, etc.)

2. Standard Documentation for Courts and prosecutors. A “one stop shop” for looking up offender data which includes: Arrests from law enforcement; filing, disposition, and probation records from courts; accident reporting from KDOT; and, driver history from KDOR. Once all agencies are electronic, the plan is to reduce reporting time requirements from 60 days to 7 days.
3. Update KCJIS (the Kansas Criminal Justice Information Systems portal) and build a notification service. If an offender re-offends users (CSO’s and judges) can be notified.
4. Benefit to public. As a result of more timely and accurate reporting, information regarding repeat violators is available to prosecutors, judges, and probation officers. Also, violators attempting to purchase guns will be precluded from purchase as a result of current data being available.