JUDICIAL BRANCH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STATUS REPORT

Submitted by Office of Court Administrator
Montana Supreme Court
February 2011

This report is submitted in compliance with section 3-1-702, MCA, which requires the court administrator to report to the General Government and Transport Joint Subcommittee on the "status of development and procurement of information technology within the judicial branch." This report provides a Judicial Branch IT profile and a progress report on recent IT projects.

Judicial Branch IT Profile

The Office of Court Administrator (OCA) provides technology services through the Court Technology Program to 204 users within the Supreme Court, the Water Court, 56 District Courts, 7 Municipal Courts, 85 Justices Courts, and 60 City Courts. This support includes the purchase, installation, networking, and maintenance of computers and office software and the deployment, training and maintenance of court case management systems. In addition, the OCA provides support for courtroom technology, including interactive video, court reporting and recording equipment, sound systems, and other technologies found in the courtroom.

The Supreme Court's Commission on Technology provides guidance and [illegible] to the court technology program. The Commission proposes the information technology strategic plan and monitors performance of the [illegible] throughout the year. The current plan is available at http://www.courts.mt.gov/cat/technology/default.mspx.

The following table lists the major IT projects for the Judicial Branch [illegible] 2011 [illegible].

Judicial Branch IT Projects and Accomplishments – 2011 Biennium

Strategic Goal **Courtroom Technology & Interactive Video**	The Judicial Branch added interactive video conferencing in the Choteau, Big Horn, McCone, Judith Basin, Prairie, Sheridan, Powder River, Garfield, Carter and Wheatland County Courthouses. The new interactive video sites use the state's enhanced Summitnet II network allowing data and video to be transmitted over the same network. The Department of Administration greatly assisted in this effort. Sound systems were upgraded in three courtrooms in Daween, Richland and Beaverhead Counties. Courtroom technology preparation for the new judges and support staff approved by the 2009 Legislature was completed in January 2011.
Strategic Goal **Justice Integration**	Working together with the Departments of Justice, Corrections and Transportation, pilot projects were implemented to improve the electronic exchange of information (e.g., citations, dispositions, hearings and other court orders) between justice agencies.
Strategic Goal **Court Case Management**	The initial rollout of the FullCourt case management system for courts of limited jurisdiction and district courts was completed in April 2009. Since that time, Court IT staff have worked with the Automation Committees of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction and Clerks of District Court to improve and standardize jury, document, reporting and case management processes in Montana courts. A central reporting system was deployed for drug court personnel to report and conduct program evaluations.
Strategic Goal **Electronic Filing**	The Electronic Filing Workgroups completed their functional requirement reports for the Electronic Filing Task Force. A request for proposals for implementing an e-filing system is being developing. Work continues on the electronic filing of citations, complaints and informations by law enforcement and prosecutors.
Strategic Goal **Public Access**	The Clerk of the Supreme Court led an effort to provide public access to the Supreme Court's docket through the Judicial Branch website. The docket includes the full public docket and associated documents for Supreme Court cases dating back to 2006. The State Law Librarian was a lead member of the steering committee that created the Indian Law Portal (http://indianlaw.mt.gov), which provides electronic access to a wide range of information including tribal court opinions, constitutions, water rights and gaming compacts, fish and game regulations, and codes.