

**Judicial Branch Administrative Update  
Presented to the Law and Justice Interim Committee  
May 12, 2006**

***Information Technology***

- C-Track (Supreme Court Case Management System)
  - Successfully operating in the Clerk of the Supreme Court's Office; and
  - Federal funding is in hand to complete the system in the Supreme Court.
  
- JCATS (Youth Court Assessment and Case Tracking)
  - Program has been in place one year; and
  - Currently monitoring compliance/data entry issues.
  
- Full Court in the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
  - Limited Court system complete with the exception of very small courts;
  - Central data repository is complete and will begin exchanging driver's citation information with the Department of Justice; and
  - Public access policies before the Commission on Technology.
  
- Full Court Pilot Projects in the District Court
  - Modifications to the system are nearing completion;
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Pilot: Install Mineral County in June and Missoula County in July.
  - After successful pilot, the program will roll out to other District Courts subject to available funding.

***Judicial Workload/Caseload Study***

- The District Court Judges started a workload time study on May 1. The study is being conducted by the National Center for State Courts and is being managed by a steering committee of six District Court Judges.
- By October, this data, in combination with uniform case filing data will give the Judicial Branch solid data about Judicial needs.

*(Over, please)*

### ***Variable Budget and Transfer of Costs to the Office of the Public Defender***

- Variable costs (largely those costs related to indigent defense) remain high – currently projecting a \$3 million cost overrun. County public defender reimbursements have increased as have costs related to psychological evaluations and other expenses.
- The majority of these costs will move to the Office of the Public Defender on July 1. The Judicial Branch is working on containing the costs that remain with the Branch (court-order evaluations, child advocates and prosecutor court-related costs, for example).

### ***Court Security Review***

- The Department of Justice just completed a 56 county court security review at the request of the District Court Council. The review contains a number of recommendations that are included in the Judicial Branch's budget proposal and a number of recommendations that are being implemented locally by the courts, local law enforcement and the counties.

### ***Child Protection and the Courts Summit (August 29 and 30)***

- The Supreme Court is jointly sponsoring a child abuse summit with the Attorney General, the OPD and the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The summit is focused on looking at how abuse and neglect cases move through courts and what would improve the current system.

### ***2007 Proposed Legislation – Transfer the JDIP Program to Judicial Branch***

- Will be addressed later in the day.