

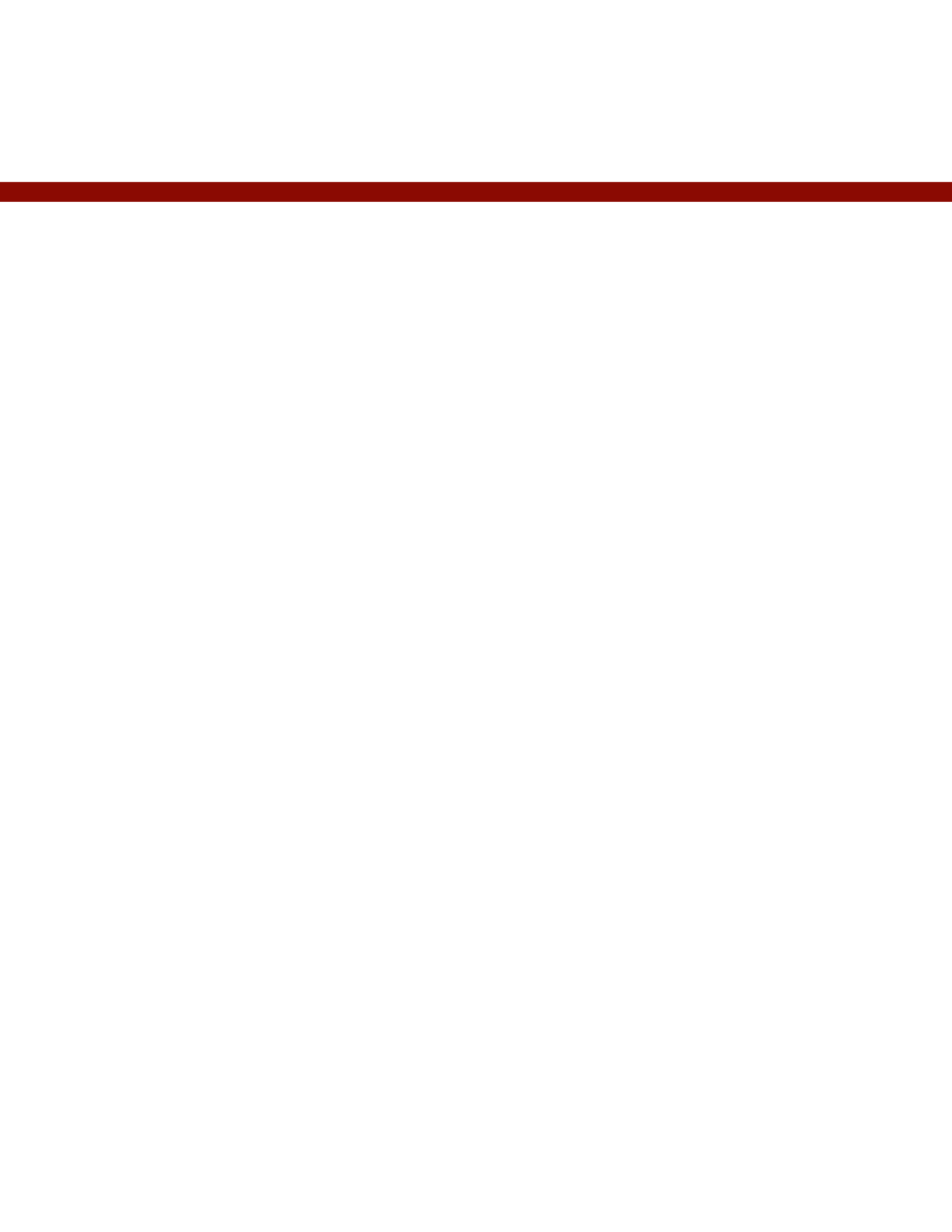
# Fiscal Year 2012 Update

## Long Range Plan for Information Technology in the Federal Judiciary



Approved by the Judicial Conference  
of the United States

September 2011



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# Introduction

**2012**

The Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary<sup>1</sup> defines the Judiciary's mission as follows: "The United States Courts are an independent, national judiciary providing fair and impartial justice within the jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and Congress. As an equal branch of government, the federal judiciary preserves and enhances its core values as the courts meet changing national and local needs."

The use of information technology in support of this mission is no longer discretionary. Judges and Judiciary staff now regard information technology not as something separate from their day-to-day work, but simply as the means by which they do their jobs. As business processes and information technology have become interwoven, the Judiciary has also come to recognize that information technology presents opportunities not simply to replicate old paper processes in digital form but to rethink many aspects of those processes altogether.

This update to the *Long Range Plan for Information Technology in the Federal Judiciary* provides an overview of the Judiciary's information technology (IT) program as it exists today, describes key strategic priorities for the IT program over the next three to five years, and summarizes the Judiciary's anticipated IT resource requirements for fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

## **Development of the plan**

Pursuant to section 612 of Title 28, United States Code, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts is responsible for preparing and annually revising the *Long Range Plan for Information Technology in the Federal Judiciary*. The Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology provides guidance in the development of annual updates and recommends the plan for approval by the Judicial Conference. Upon approval, the Director transmits the annual update of this plan to Congress.

To gather input on the plan from the courts, Administrative Office staff conducted focus group discussions with court unit executives, operations staff, and information technology staff representing district, bankruptcy, and appellate courts and probation and pretrial services offices. Joint meetings between the long range planning subcommittees of the Committee on Information Technology and the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management also provided a wealth of insight and information pertinent to the update. Together, these groups provided perspectives on the Judiciary's information technology program from the judicial, executive, and operational levels. In the fiscal year 2012 version of the plan, information security has been added as a component of the Judiciary's technical infrastructure on which especially high priority will be placed over the next three to five years. The fiscal year 2012 version also updates descriptions of program activities and the Judiciary's anticipated IT resource requirements for fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

<sup>1</sup> *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary*, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States, September 2010.

# The Judiciary's IT Program

The Judiciary's IT program consists of systems and services provided both at the national level and by the courts individually. The program comprises three elements:

- Public-facing technologies that serve the general public, as well as litigants, attorneys, law enforcement agencies, state and local courts, executive branch agencies, and others.
- Internal Judiciary systems used by judges, court staff, and probation and pretrial services officers.
- The technical infrastructure that supports both the external and internal stakeholder groups.

## Public-facing technologies

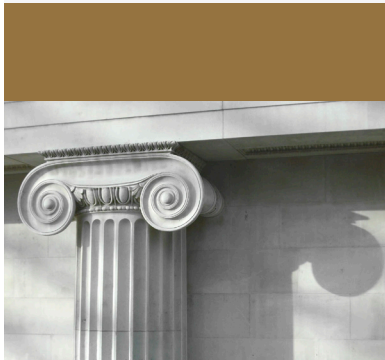
The Judiciary provides electronic information and services to its external stakeholders in a number of ways that improve access to justice, increase convenience, and reduce costs.

All courts maintain individual Internet web sites with court-specific information, local rules, forms, and filing information for the public. The Judiciary's national web site provides links to all individual court web sites, and serves as a clearinghouse for information and services ranging from the ability to comment on proposed changes to the Federal Rules of Procedure to a video series that educates the public about the basics of filing a bankruptcy case.

The Judiciary provides electronic access to case information, including the documents in the case file, through its Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) System. The public and other external stakeholders no longer need to visit the court in person to obtain the case file and photocopy documents. Instead, any of the program's 1.2 million registered users can obtain these documents and other case information on-line. At the same time, in order to strengthen security and protect privacy, the Judiciary has instituted policies that restrict certain types of cases, information, and documents from unlimited public access. The Judiciary has also taken significant steps to ensure that access fees are fair and reasonable, and it has developed free access options such as public terminals in the courthouse and an automated telephone information system for bankruptcy cases.

The filing process in the federal courts has been transformed by the implementation of the Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) System, through which attorneys open cases and file documents over the Internet. Case information and related documents are electronically available to case participants at virtually the same moment a filing has been completed. Nearly instantaneous e-mail notification of any activity in a case maximizes the time available for participants to respond. These efficiencies benefit the court and the bar, and also reduce time and costs for the litigants. The public benefits from CM/ECF because the electronic case file available through PACER is created as a byproduct of the CM/ECF filing process.

In the courtroom, the Judiciary has made substantial investments in technologies that reduce trial time and litigation costs, as well as improve fact-finding, jury understanding, and access to court proceedings. These technologies include evidence presentation systems, video



**Questionnaire Example**

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[Click for larger view](#)

**Summons Example**

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## Login

For identifying information, please enter the following:

- Enter your 9 digit **Participant Number**(located next to your name and address on the form you received in the mail). Click on the "Questionnaire/Summons Example" on the left to help you locate your participant number. You will need to enter this participant number each time you log in.
- Enter the first **three letters** of your last name.
- Enter your Date of Birth. Please enter the birth year as four digits (i.e. 1956)

It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete the Questionnaire or Summons. Your responses will not be retained if you exit before completion of the entire Questionnaire or Summons.

**Participant Number**

**The first three LETTERS of your last name (excluding hyphens, apostrophes, spaces, etc)**

**Date of Birth**  /  /

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**With eJuror, potential jurors can submit their juror qualifications, deferral requests, and summons information on-line.**

conferencing, assisted listening systems, and language interpretation systems. Evidence presentation technology supplied by the court helps to level the playing field in the courtroom, preventing a mismatch of resources in which one litigant has the resources to make technologically advanced presentations and the other does not; such a mismatch could unfairly influence jurors' perceptions and the outcome of a trial.

Two of the most recent innovations in the Judiciary's public-facing technologies are the eJuror System, and the Electronic Records System (ERS). With eJuror, potential jurors submit their juror qualifications, deferral and excuse requests, and summons information forms on-line. If selected to serve, jurors can use eJuror to learn their current juror status, print certificates of attendance, and complete a survey about their experience as jurors. With ERS, which will complete implementation in 2011, defendants and offenders will be able to provide key information to their officers electronically using kiosks, a telephone system, or the Internet. Previously, this information could be submitted only on paper, and additional work by probation and pretrial services office staff was required to enter the information into a database.

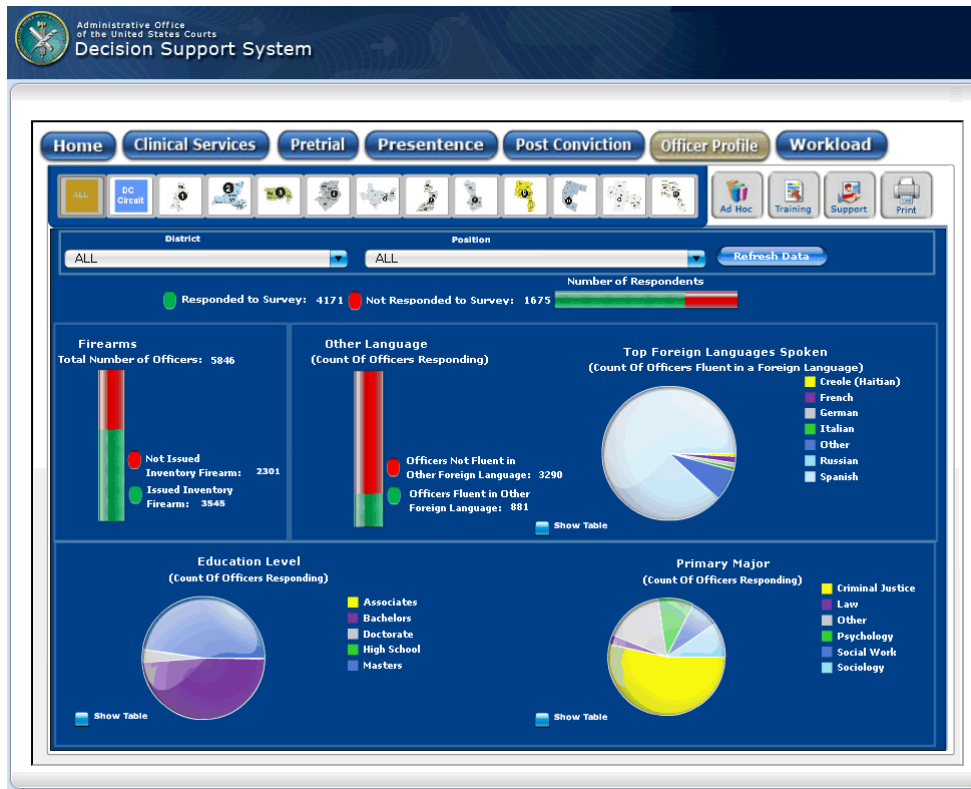
## Internal Judiciary systems

The Judiciary's national systems include court and case management systems used by judges, court staff, and probation and pretrial services offices; stewardship systems through which the Judiciary manages its resources such as personnel, finances, and physical facilities; statistical reporting systems; and office automation systems such as e-mail and word processing. These enterprise-wide systems are continually enhanced in response to new requirements and opportunities presented by new technologies. For example, in 2008, the Decision Support System (DSS), which works with the Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), was introduced. DSS aggregates data from PACTS for all 94 districts, and allows probation and pretrial services officers to apply business analytics to a national set of data.

The Judiciary's internal systems also include numerous applications developed by individual courts to support and supplement the national systems. The E-Orders application, for example, was developed by a bankruptcy court and enables much of the routing and processing of proposed orders to be done electronically. In another instance, a probation and pretrial services office developed a feature that electronically processes clinical services invoices; the



**The Decision Support System allows probation and pretrial services officers to apply business analytics to a national set of data.**



feature was later adopted for national use with PACTS. The Online System for Clerkship Application and Review (OSCAR) is an Internet-based law clerk recruitment and application program initiated by four courts and used by judges representing every circuit. In 2009, OSCAR transitioned to national support. Many courts share the applications they develop with other courts through the Judiciary’s on-line clearinghouses, Ed’s Place and CourtForge.

### **Technical infrastructure**

The Judiciary’s technical infrastructure is an underlying framework that supports the delivery and processing of information for all of its stakeholders, both internal and external. This infrastructure includes not only physical equipment such as servers and networks, but also policies and programs that ensure the quality and reliability of the Judiciary’s IT services, such as software project management processes, help desks, training programs, and published standards and best practices.

The Judiciary’s security program is a critical component of its technical infrastructure. The program

provides policies, training, and technologies at the network, server, and desktop levels that strengthen the security of the Judiciary’s information assets. The Judiciary’s national security response team works with individual courts to put into place preventive measures and to investigate and resolve security incidents.

The Judiciary continually seeks to strengthen its technical infrastructure. Examples include the establishment of the Court Operations Support Center, a facility outside of Washington, D.C., that will provide continuity of essential operations to courts nationwide in the event of an emergency; the Federal Judicial Television Network (FJTN) program, which disseminates news and other information to Judiciary employees and the public; and the PACTS mobile computing program, which has supplied probation and pretrial services officers across the country with tablet and laptop computers, as well as with software that gives officers access to key case information, e-mail, and the Judiciary’s intranet sites from their BlackBerry smartphones.



# Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities have been established for the Judiciary's IT program over the next three to five years:

- Enhance services to stakeholders.
- Maintain a robust technical infrastructure.
- Manage information from a Judiciary-wide perspective.
- Capitalize on individual court innovations.
- Coordinate national and individual court systems development.

## **Enhance services to stakeholders**

Successful IT systems are never truly finished. The better a system is, the more it is used and the more its users will discover new ways to expand and improve it. New requirements also evolve in response to changes in the larger environment, such as new statutory requirements or new technologies that present opportunities for better ways of accomplishing work.

The Judiciary responds to the need for continuous improvement to its IT program through established channels of feedback from its stakeholders and by managing changes through a structured life cycle management process. Periodically, the Judiciary also assesses when and whether to modernize or replace its existing systems. Enhancing services to stakeholders is a permanent objective of the Judiciary's IT program, but it is useful nevertheless to delineate the areas on which the Judiciary will place especially high priority over the next three to five years.

## **Electronic public access**

In 2010, the Judiciary completed a comprehensive assessment of its electronic public access (EPA) program. Based on findings from the assessment, program improvements include a multi-faceted training initiative consisting of on-line tutorials, a national training database, and materials for instructor-led training developed in partnership with the Government Printing Office and the American Association of Law Libraries. The Judiciary is also exploring ways to provide access to PACER through mobile devices and to make PACER more accessible to the visually impaired.

## **Pro se litigants**

Nearly all of the electronic filing done in the federal courts is done by members of the bar. As electronic transactions have become the norm in business and government, however, it is reasonable for the Judiciary to consider the benefits and risks associated with electronic filing by various categories of pro se litigants. These range from individual citizens filing for bankruptcy to federal prisoners. In addition to electronic filing, the Judiciary will evaluate other technology-based services of potential benefit both to pro se litigants and to the courts. Smart form technologies, for example, might be used to lead pro se filers through the creation of pleadings that are more likely to meet legal standards and that would be more usable by the courts.



## Case management

The CM/ECF System has transformed not only the filing and notification process in the federal courts, but also the way cases are managed within the courts. CM/ECF is now a decade old, so the Judiciary has begun to contemplate the long-term future of the system and has established functional requirement groups within the appellate, bankruptcy, and district court communities. These groups are developing a vision and a set of requirements for the Judiciary's next-generation case management system.

Similarly, PACTS has evolved into a comprehensive case management system for probation and pretrial services officers, and has become an indispensable supervision and investigation tool that enables officers to carry larger and higher-risk caseloads with fewer support staff. The next generation of PACTS will further increase officers' effectiveness by establishing a single national database, combining the records of offenders and defendants in multiple districts, and facilitating data exchange with other law enforcement agencies and with systems developed by individual offices.

## Judges and chambers staff

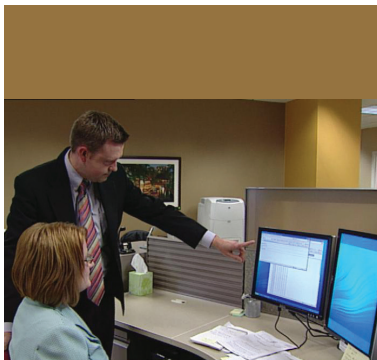
Although originally designed primarily to manage documents and processes in the clerk of court's office, CM/ECF has introduced many efficiencies in chambers. The system supports some, but not all, of the work flow requirements in chambers which are related to these filings. Judges and their staff have also come to rely upon a variety of other electronic tools such as computer-assisted legal research databases, calendaring systems, e-mail, word processing, and spreadsheets. These tools also afford many efficiencies in chambers, but they do not always work seamlessly with each other or with the case management system.

To address these requirements, judges and chambers staff have been included at the outset as members of the functional requirements groups that are planning the future of the Judiciary's case management system. In the interim, the Judiciary has enhanced CM/ECF by adding a chambers

case management component to the appellate, bankruptcy, and district court versions and incorporating the E-Orders application in the bankruptcy court version. Also in the interim, two courts that have developed calendaring systems, Chambers Electronic Organizer (CEO) and Chambers Automation Program (CHAP), are receiving funding to provide national support to other courts wishing to adopt either system.

## Courtroom technologies

As described under "Public-facing technologies," the Judiciary has invested substantially in courtroom technologies such as evidence presentation systems, video conferencing, assisted listening systems, and language interpretation systems. Over the next three to five years, the Judiciary will continue to place a high priority on equipping all courtrooms with a base technology infrastructure and portable equipment that can be shared among courtrooms, as well as consider additional technologies that may further facilitate courtroom proceedings.



## Maintain a robust technical infrastructure

The Judiciary's reliance on information technology means that failure of its technical infrastructure can effectively bring operations to a halt for its internal stakeholders and severely affect the work of its external stakeholders. As with enhancing services to stakeholders, maintaining a robust technical infrastructure is a permanent objective of the Judiciary's IT program. Three key areas on which the Judiciary will place especially high priority over the next three to five years are described below.

## Remote computing

Remote computing technologies increase productivity and flexibility, as well as support continuity of operations in an emergency. Time spent traveling can be used productively, information can be captured at the point of activity

rather than entered into a database upon return to the workplace, and employees can work from remote locations as the situation requires. The Judiciary has made significant progress in establishing remote computing capabilities through its virtual private network and programs such as PACTS mobile computing. In the next three to five years, the Judiciary will continue to prepare for and support an increasingly mobile workforce, with the goal of providing reliable, standard, and secure connectivity that is easy to set up and use. Over time, remote capabilities should provide access to e-mail, voice mail, documents, Judiciary applications, voice conferencing, and video conferencing from personal digital assistants (PDAs), cell phones, laptops, tablet computers, and other devices as they emerge.

#### **Next-generation network**

Increased demand on the Judiciary's communications networks both to support internal systems and to enable more widespread use of its public-facing technologies requires that network capabilities be evaluated and upgraded on an ongoing basis. Over the next three to five years, the Judiciary will complete the upgrade of its networks to converged services, delivering voice, data, and video services over a single, secure network.

The technical simplicity of a single network will provide cost savings and improve continuity of operations in an emergency. Converged network services will also improve the delivery of many other services, including mobile computing, video conferencing in the courtroom and elsewhere, delivery of distance training through collaborative technologies, and integration of telecommunications with the Judiciary's software systems. The latter would, for example, allow the Judiciary to provide information from its case management systems automatically to callers based on their telephone numbers.

#### **Information Security**

Mobile devices, converged network services, and other new technologies can greatly enhance productivity, communication, and flexibility. New technologies also introduce new security risks, and all organizations face the challenge of balancing the benefits of these technologies with those risks. In the next three to five years, the Judiciary will place a high priority on keeping its security practices current with new technologies in order to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of court records and other information.

**Remote computing technologies increase productivity and flexibility for judges, court staff, and probation and pretrial services officers.**



#### **Manage information from a Judiciary-wide perspective**

The Judiciary manages a broad array of information in its suite of national systems. As in many organizations, these systems were developed separately over time to support various lines of business such as case management and court administration, probation and pretrial services, human resources, and financial management. Although the systems were developed separately, the lines of business often share information in common and their work processes are interconnected. As a result, the suite of systems stores redundant data and documents, and it can be difficult to share information and coordinate work processes across systems.

The Judiciary would benefit both technically and organizationally by eliminating these information silos and integrating its national systems. Data entry costs would be reduced because the same data would no longer be entered in multiple repositories. Data would be more consistent and



reliable because it would no longer have to be synchronized across these repositories. The ability to easily share information and coordinate work processes across lines of business would result in organizational benefits such as improved quality of service and increased productivity. Also, the ready availability of comprehensive and complete data across lines of business makes it possible to more effectively analyze organizational patterns and trends which, in turn, results in better planning and decision making.

A number of techniques and technologies provide opportunities for the Judiciary to integrate its national systems and manage information from an enterprise-wide perspective. A data management initiative already underway, as well as assessments of technologies such as web services and service-oriented architecture (SOA) for use in national systems, will serve to move the Judiciary forward in this area.

### **Capitalize on individual court innovations**

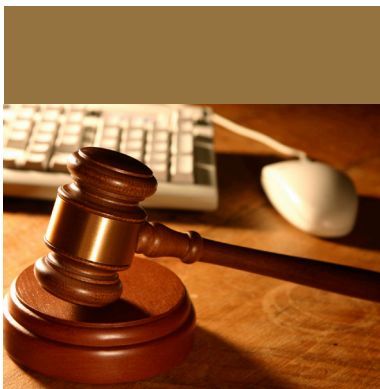
The innovations of individual courts are essential to the success of the Judiciary's IT program. Courts across the Judiciary develop both separate and adjunct systems to meet requirements not met by national systems. Some of these requirements are unique to an individual court, but often the requirements are common to many courts.

Courts frequently undertake system development efforts independently of other courts, which can result in duplication of effort when different courts are meeting the same requirements. Any new system brings with it the cost of ongoing technical support. The more successful a court is at developing systems, the greater a support burden it creates for itself. Depending on a particular court's resources, the support burden at some point becomes a disincentive for developing systems, leaving requirements unmet.

Courts share many of their innovations by making systems available in the national clearinghouses Ed's Place and CourtForge. These clearinghouses are widely used and have saved individual courts many hours of system development time. By itself,

however, this mechanism cannot provide the Judiciary with the fullest possible benefit of individual court innovations. One critical impediment is that the systems available through the clearinghouses do not come with an assurance of ongoing technical support from their developers. Some courts are reluctant to adopt other courts' innovations without this support, and some courts are reluctant to share their own innovations because they cannot provide support to many other courts.

In the next three to five years, the Judiciary will seek additional ways to capitalize on individual court innovations so that all courts can more effectively share common solutions to common problems. With the encouragement of the Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology, the Judiciary has established an effort to promote collaborative development and support of both local court and national software applications. This effort has sponsored a pilot collaborative development project to demonstrate the benefits of sharing development and support responsibilities across interested courts. Similar efforts are underway to adopt the collaborative model to the development and support of the Judiciary's next generation case management systems.



### **Coordinate national and individual court systems development**

The Judiciary places a high value on the independence of individual courts. Although courts share the same general business processes, the details of how they carry out those processes can vary widely. Many of these variations reflect business needs that are shaped by factors such as the type of cases that may predominate in a particular district, the size of the district, and the requirements of judicial discretion. Some variations reflect local traditions and preferences.

To accommodate these variations in practice, the Judiciary's national case management systems build in extra layers of software and allow for a high degree of



**In the next three to five years, the Judiciary will seek ways to integrate its national systems more effectively, share common solutions to common problems among individual courts, and coordinate national and individual court systems development.**

individual court customization. To reflect their individual practices, many courts make their own modifications to national systems in addition to creating adjunct systems.

Striking the balance between the benefits and costs of national coordination and individual court autonomy is an ongoing challenge for the Judiciary's IT program. National systems provide economies of scale, are critical to courts without the resources to develop their own systems, and provide some degree of standardization that allows courts, attorneys, and the public to share information more effectively. Individual court modifications and adjunct systems are more responsive to the particular court's business needs and priorities, and often address functional gaps in national systems more rapidly. However, national systems must be more complex in order to accommodate differing local practices, and individual courts must expend more resources to customize and supplement the national systems. Attorneys and others who access systems in more than one court must adjust to different user options and procedures to accomplish the same or similar tasks.

As it moves forward with its next-generation case management systems, the Judiciary will seek ways to better coordinate national and individual court systems development. Many of the techniques and technologies that the Judiciary will use to integrate its national suite of applications, as well as the collaborative development and support model for coordinating innovations across courts, will likely have application here as well. As part of these efforts, the Judiciary may identify practices which must of necessity differ from court to court, as well as those practices which, if standardized, would not compromise individual court independence but would bring benefits to the courts, litigants, attorneys, and the public alike.

# Investing in the IT Program

The Judiciary aligns its IT investments with its business objectives through an inclusive planning process that is synchronized with the Judiciary's budget cycle. The Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology reviews resource requirements and expenditure plans for the Judiciary's IT program in accordance with guidelines and priorities established by the Judicial Conference for the use of available resources.

When considering the costs associated with the IT program, it is important to take a broad Judiciary-wide view. The Judiciary's public-facing technologies, internal systems, and technical infrastructure have resulted in improved services to its external stakeholders as well as in internal efficiencies that have allowed the courts to absorb an increased workload without increasing staff as much as would otherwise have been required. These cost avoidances

will become increasingly important in times of continuing budgetary constraints.

The Judiciary will continue to rely heavily on its IT program to meet its mission and to serve the public in the coming years. As indicated in this annual update to the *Long Range Plan*, not only will systems in place be maintained and enhanced, but emphasis will also be placed on adopting new systems, technologies, and services that will provide additional benefits.

The table shows the Judiciary's full anticipated IT resource requirements for fiscal years 2012 through 2016, organized by the program components of the Judiciary Information Technology Fund (JITF).<sup>2</sup> Successful execution of the objectives in this plan is dependent on the availability of these funds. Each program component is described in the next section.

## Resource Requirements

JITF Program Component	Current Estimate (Dollars in Millions)				
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Court Allotments	110.0	112.6	114.6	117.0	119.3
Court Administration and Case Management	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8
Courtroom Technologies	8.7	9.5	6.4	6.2	2.6
Judicial Statistics and Reporting	4.1	4.2	5.4	4.4	4.7
Probation and Pretrial Services	20.3	20.8	17.9	17.6	16.7
Financial Systems	36.9	45.4	44.7	31.2	21.9
Human Resources Systems	21.9	21.9	22.3	22.7	23.2
Management Information Systems	16.7	14.5	14.4	13.3	13.6
Telecommunications	83.2	85.7	84.0	87.8	83.8
Infrastructure	79.5	82.8	92.0	86.6	89.4
Court Support	31.8	33.3	35.1	36.6	38.1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>416.7</i>	<i>434.3</i>	<i>440.6</i>	<i>427.1</i>	<i>417.1</i>
Electronic Public Access Program	128.2	134.8	132.1	139.4	139.8
<b>Total JITF Financial Requirements</b>	<b>544.9</b>	<b>569.1</b>	<b>572.7</b>	<b>566.5</b>	<b>556.9</b>

<sup>2</sup> Section 612 of Title 28, United States Code, establishes the JITF and makes funds available to the Judiciary's information technology program without fiscal year limitation.



## **JITF program components**

### ***Court allotments***

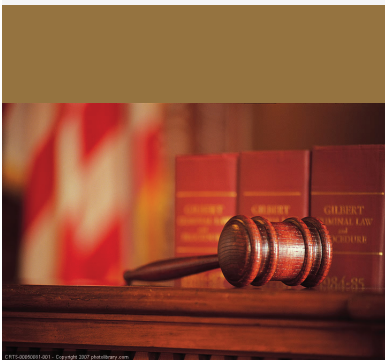
This program component consists of four types of allotments provided to the courts at the beginning of each fiscal year:

- An IT infrastructure allotment, which is based on an industry-standard funding model, for maintenance and cyclical replacement of desktop PCs, local area networks, and related systems such as CM/ECF. The funding model was refreshed for fiscal year 2009 to reflect updated pricing and support for additional equipment.
- An historically based allotment for IT training, phone bills, and related expenses.
- An allotment for the maintenance and retrofitting of courtroom technologies to achieve uniform nationwide implementation of these technologies. The Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology has defined nationwide implementation as a permanent infrastructure installed in every courtroom and portable video systems installed in one-third of all courtrooms. The Judiciary received congressional approval to fund courtroom technology allotments with EPA receipts in fiscal year 2007.
- An IT law enforcement allotment provided to probation and pretrial services offices for requirements such as firearms simulators, forensics hardware and software, and global positioning systems.

In addition, allotments for IT equipment for newly appointed judges and for items the courts use to provide electronic public access, such as public terminals, public printers, and Internet web servers, are provided to the courts as the need arises.

### ***Court administration and case management***

This program component encompasses systems that manage cases and case files for the appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts and for the Central Violations Bureau. Examples include the CM/ECF System, Jury Management System, Integrated Library System, and Central Violations Bureau System.



### **Electronic public access program**

This program component provides electronic public access to court information, develops and maintains electronic public access systems in the Judiciary, and provides centralized billing, registration, and technical support services for the Judiciary and the public through the PACER Service Center.

### **Courtroom technologies**

This program component provides for the installation and maintenance of courtroom technologies to improve the quality and efficiency of courtroom proceedings. Decentralized courtroom technology allotments, which are funded by Electronic Public Access receipts, are included in the Court Allotments program component.

### **Judicial statistics and reporting**

This program component includes the collection and reporting of statistical data in the Judiciary, management of financial disclosure reports required by the Ethics in Government Act, inter-circuit assignments in courts of appeals and district courts, bankruptcy administrator management and reporting, law clerk recruitment and hiring, and electronic document management for the federal rulemaking process. Examples of systems in this program component include the New Streamline Timely Access to Statistics System, Financial Disclosure System, Inter-Circuit Assignment System, Bankruptcy Administrator Case Management System, Online System for Clerkship Application and Review, and the Federal Rules Electronic Document System.

### **Probation and pretrial services**

This program component provides probation and pretrial services offices with case management and decision support systems as well as the means to access critical case information while working in the field. Support is also provided for the storage and sharing of electronic documents; the collection, analysis, and reporting of offender and defendant data; and the IT needs of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Examples

of systems in this program component include PACTS, Safety and Integrity Reporting System, Decision Support System, Electronic Records System, Law Enforcement Office Notification Initiative, and Access to Law Enforcement System.

### **Financial systems**

In addition to the financial accounting system, this program component includes systems to support individual court budgeting processes, make payments for private counsel and expert services appointed under the Criminal Justice Act, monitor criminal debt imposed by the court, handle cash receipting, report court payroll information, and track travel expenses. Recent enhancements to financial systems have improved the Judiciary's ability to support federal accounting standards including the E-Government Act requirement for daily reporting to the Department of Treasury. Examples of financial systems include the Financial Accounting System for Tomorrow, Civil and

Criminal Accounting and Cash Receipting Module, Personnel Projection System, Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Payment System, and Payroll Staffing Information System.

### **Human resources systems**

The human resources program component includes systems for personnel, payroll, retirement-related services, judges' retirement, fair employment practices reporting, and electronic transmission of fingerprint checks, as well as efforts to integrate many of these services into a single user experience using portal technologies. Examples of human resources systems include the Human Resources Management Information System, Judicial Retirement System, Fair Employment Practices System, and the Fingerprinting Process Connectivity Project.

### **Management information systems**

This program component includes a collection of systems and activities to support the procurement process, the Judiciary's national Internet web site, the collection of survey information,



the national records management program, the Court Operations Support Center, the *Guide to Judiciary Policies*, and the management of facilities costs. Examples include the Judiciary Facilities Asset and Construction Tracking System which enables analysis of rent reports from GSA to project schedule and cost information, and the development of an electronic version of the *Guide to Judiciary Policies* which provides the courts with timely access to official guidance and information in support of their day-to-day operations.

### **Telecommunications**

This program component includes voice and data transmission services and telecommunications equipment for new buildings. Telecommunications allotments to the courts are included in the Court Allotments program component.

### **Infrastructure**

This program component includes funds managed centrally on behalf of the courts to support the national IT program with testing, training, and technical support services, national software licenses, maintenance and replacement of servers, e-mail messaging, security services, the Judiciary's data centers, project management, information systems architecture, grants to courts for technology innovations, and collaboration technologies. These funds also support the Judiciary's testing center in Phoenix, Arizona, and the training and support center in San Antonio, Texas, which delivers classroom and on-line training in a variety of IT-related subjects.

### **Court support**

This program component funds staff in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts who provide policy and planning guidance and IT development, management, and maintenance services to the courts. These employees do not duplicate the functions of court employees but instead provide support to national IT systems and services.

**Courtroom technologies reduce trial time and litigation costs, and improve fact-finding, jury understanding, and access to court proceedings.**









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