

Promoting Progress in Court Technology and Information NEEDS

Why court technology matters

The court system is information intensive and serves the dual role of protecting public safety (criminal) and resolving disputes (civil). The public expects the courts to adopt more technology and modern business practices to reduce delay, reduce cost and improve communication and convenience. Legislative and executive leadership deserve quality data from the Judicial Branch to help steer decisions regarding individuals involved with the criminal justice system and to inform policy analysis and decisionmaking at the highest levels. The public deserves a court system that meets their needs.

Statewide Court Technology Governance

The Judicial Branch can manage its own court technology to serve the public and other state agencies.

- A single decisionmaking body with unambiguous authority is needed to set minimum standards and the tools to require compliance.
- Ensuring that all courts have access to and support for systems that meet the minimum requirements. Currently the Judicial Council provides an array of systems on a “best efforts” basis.

Sustained and Adequate Investment

- Regular, planned investment in court technology is required to implement proven systems, maintain these systems, to train and retain staffs that use these systems. While ad hoc funding allows for special projects or new developments, it is not the most efficient way to perform routine functions like maintenance and license renewal.
- While Judicial Council IT is nationally recognized for its efforts, Georgia’s judicial technology resources funded by appropriations are not consistent and are at historic lows. The Judicial Council maintains a small staff that supports a variety of systems in roughly 300 of the nearly 1100 courts in Georgia. Counties and cities with the means invest more money to procure, customize and maintain systems with functionality tailored to their needs by private vendors.
- A court technology fee that stays local and supports investment guided by a court technology plan can support infrastructure and investment at the local, circuit or district level.

What effective governance and sustained investment will bring to Georgians

- Meaningful statewide standards will help ensure more consistent and timely application of the law throughout the state.
- Online form generators, civil e-filing and e-access will provide greater access to justice for the unrepresented, save the courts time, and will greatly enhance the convenience of dealing with the courts.
- Court technology that captures and transmits pertinent information to justice system partners will help ensure better management of offenders.
- The ability to bring together quality case information from all courts will provide leaders with better information to make better informed choices on behalf of the public.

Promoting Progress in Court Related Statewide Information Technology

