

# **Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts**

## **Report and Recommendations to the Senate Unified Court Technology Study Committee November 7, 2014**

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# Challenge

**“Courts, their stakeholders and their customers experience daily limitations resulting from incomplete information and records.”**



# Core Solution

“We believe information systems upgrades should focus on real-time intra and intergovernmental data exchanges for state and local governments. These upgrades should be based on mandatory, statewide standards for data, allowing all justice agencies to share data efficiently.”



# Judicial Council/AOC

## **§ 15-5-20. Judicial Council of Georgia; powers and duties; membership**

**(a) The Supreme Court shall create a Judicial Council of Georgia, which council shall have such powers, duties, and responsibilities as may be provided by law or as may be provided by rule of the Supreme Court.**

**The purpose of the Judicial Council is to establish policy for Georgia's judiciary, effectuate its statutory responsibilities, and improve the administration of Georgia's courts.**



# Judicial Council/AOC

## **§ 15-5-24. Duties of Administrative Office of the Courts**

**Under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties:**

**(2) Examine the administrative and business methods and systems employed in the offices related to and serving the courts and make recommendations for necessary improvement;**

**(3) Compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which data and information shall be provided by the courts;**

**(5) Examine the state of the dockets and practices and procedures of the courts and make recommendations for the expedition of litigation;**


**(7) Formulate and submit recommendations for the improvement of the judicial system;**

**(8) Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Judicial Council; and**



# Unique Criminal Justice Communities by Trial Court

National/State Reports, Best Practices, Requirements

National Center for State Courts, CPPS, OASIS, Pew, GOHS, BJA, IJIS, CITOC, USDOJ, etc.	 <p><b>Judicial Council AOC</b></p>	SCCCA, GCCA, CJRC, CJCC, GLS, State Bar, domestic violence grants, ACCG, GMA, GSA, ICJE, CSCC, PAC, OPB. SAO
	Superior Court	GDOC (inc. felony probation), DCSS, misdemeanor probation, DBHDD, GPDSC, Pardons and Paroles, Adult Felony Accountability Courts
DDS, misdemeanor probation, GOHS, NHSTA	State Court	
	Juvenile Court	DJJ, DHS
Law Enforcement (warrants)	Magistrate Court	
	Probate Court	Vital Records, DNR, SOS, misdemeanor probation, DDS
DDS, GOHS, misdemeanor probation, GMA	Municipal Court	



# **How JC/AOC IT fulfills its role**

**Interfaces with state agencies (DCSS, GSP, GDOC, PAC, DDS)**

**Provides court applications meeting statutory requirements: (MCIS, PCIS, Sustain, TIPS, GAJE)**

**Creates and manages state judiciary web presence**

**Coordinates with courts and vendors to resolve questions, i.e., data integration, e-filing**



# Policy Question #1

1. Identify the *customer(s)* we are discussing.
2. Clarify Georgia's Judicial "System" - the fact is that there is not a judicial technology system in place.

## "Who Participates?"

**Recommendation: Clarify that (1) courthouse stakeholders and judicial agencies constitute the "courts;" and (2) the courts, law enforcement, corrections, pardons and paroles and social services are participants in the "Justice System."**





# Policy Question #2

**A technology solution cannot be built or purchased to resolve the problems Georgia faces – it's a process issue that has to be addressed. If the state wants direction and oversight, then it needs to be established.**

## **“Who Decides?”**

**Recommendation: Judicial Council sets statewide standards and policies for the courts with the aid of its constituencies, represents courts to the state justice community in order to participate in establishing enterprise priorities and implementing solutions.**



# Policy Question #3

**Once standards are approved, how are stakeholders incentivized to abide by the decision?**

**“What’s in it for me?”**

**Recommendation: (1) offer baseline resources that meet standards; (2) ensure consistent adequate state and local funding; (3) provide incentives for meeting standards.**



# Where do we go from here?

## *Local determination guided by statewide standards*

- **Invest in appropriate technology that supports needs at the state and local level for decision making across all judicial system parties**
- **Pursue web services, integration of information**
- **Promote “level playing field” and competition among vendors**

## *Standardize data sources*

- **Standardize data elements or a data dictionary**

**Criminal – Felony**

**Juvenile**

**Civil**

**Criminal –Traffic/Misdemeanor**

**Probate**

**Domestic Relations**

***Support special needs litigants state wide* (i.e., self-represented, non-English speakers, indigent)**



# Areas of Exposure (Risks)

- ▶ **Continued lack of funding and lack of funding management**
- ▶ **Continued lack of agreement among justice system parties, unwillingness to recognize the “good of the whole.”**
- ▶ **Lack of incentives to honor standards**

