

**Critical Courtroom and Case Management Technology****FY2009 Request: \$1,500,000****Reference No: 43153****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Information Systems**Category:** Law and Justice**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215**Estimated Project Dates:** 05/01/2008 - 06/30/2013**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Funding requested is for modifications to CourtView, the trial court case management system, and for the replacement of outdated computer equipment, software and telephone systems in court locations statewide. The enhancement of CourtView will capture bail and other conditions of release in the court room so the information is accessible on line for enforcement agencies and will provide enforcement agencies custom views of CourtView.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,500,000	\$2,153,300					\$3,653,300
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,500,000	\$2,153,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,653,300

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	0	0

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

FY 04 1,000,000

FY 05 500,000

FY 07 1,500,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The Alaska Court System requests \$1,500,000 to expedite statewide deployment and enhance the court's case management system (CourtView) in order to make criminal case data and documents more complete, accurate, timely, and electronically accessible to enforcement agencies and, as appropriate, to the public. This three-year project is estimated to cost \$3,653,300.

Electronic Bail/Conditions of Release, Charging Documents and Judgments:

Bail conditions are set by courts on paper and maintained in manual files that are not accessible to state and local police, impeding enforcement of conditions of release. The court needs to evaluate methods of recording conditions of release at the time they are imposed, in the courtroom (e.g., voice recognition software, touch screen computers, capturing an electronic image of a paper document). This is a necessary first step in order to share the information with other agencies electronically. The court will implement a pilot project in two court locations (one large and one smaller/rural) to evaluate new data capture procedures and equipment and modify CourtView to link dockets to electronic documents such as bail orders, charging documents and criminal judgments/orders. During FY10-FY12 the project will be expanded to include additional courts and, based on the pilot outcomes, additional document/imaging.

Initial funding is requested for project management, equipment and contractual services to test, evaluate and implement data capture in the pilot locations. The project will be expanded to additional courts and potentially additional types of documents in FY10-11. The court system will work with twenty other agencies through Alaska's Multi-Agency Justice Integration Consortium (MAJIC) to ensure that the project adheres to information sharing standards and best practices endorsed by that group.

#### Custom Views of CourtView for External Agencies and the Public

CourtView records are publicly accessible on the court's website, with exceptions such as sensitive personal identifiers (such as social security numbers) and other personal contact information. Law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, and other criminal and juvenile justice agencies need web access to more information than can be displayed to the general public; external agencies also need customized views in order to quickly navigate to the type of information they need. The court will develop custom view profiles for law enforcement to allow access to electronic documents such as orders for bail/conditions of release, charging documents and criminal case judgments/orders. In FY10 the project will be expanded to allow public access to such documents, using redaction software that prevents display of confidential/sensitive information contained in the documents that law enforcement and other agencies needs, but which should not be publicly displayed, such as personal contact information.

The initial request will fund contractual services to analyze needs of law enforcement and other external agencies. During FY10-FY11 the court will create the custom views for agencies and make electronic documents available to the public.

#### Enhance CourtView Criminal Case Management Features

The court system will contract for modification of data entry screens, database structures, and integration software, including web services to improve criminal case management and processing. The court system as well as police, prosecutors, juvenile justice, corrections/probation/parole and other agencies need to enhance Alaska's Uniform Table of Offenses (AUTO) and integrate it with CourtView to ensure that statutes, regulations and ordinances are referenced uniformly according to agreed upon standards. This allows accurate tracking of laws that change over time, speeds processing of offense data exchanged between agencies/systems, and eliminates duplicate work and risk of conflicts caused by multiple agencies maintaining individual, customized offense tables. Contractual funds are needed for on-going improvements to criminal case processing data entry screens, electronic interfaces and database management to comply with changes in criminal and sentencing laws, and improve the electronic flow of data between courts and other criminal justice agencies. The court system needs to develop data entry screens to fully capture judgment and sentencing details in order to make the information accessible to external agencies in near-real time.

This request will fund contracts for software programming and licenses, project management, and training.

#### On-line Queries of Court Data for Decision Support, Research and Statistics:

External agencies need access to court case statistics to respond to legislative requests, evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitative and other programs and initiatives, and analyze needs for services. The court's case management system analysts must write programs to create special reports to respond to such queries. The court needs to allow external agencies to make their own queries, which will provide faster results and more efficient use of court resources. Funds are needed to create a website with instructions to help users understand the structure and meaning of court data so they can create their own reports on-line without the intervention of court programming staff.

The first phase of this project (funded by this request) will be used to purchase and install additional server equipment, define a common set of high-demand case statistics, design query schema and train developers. Phase 2 will fund site licenses/installation, data dictionary development and customizing the ad-hoc query interface followed by installation, publication and education for external agencies and the public.

#### Expedite Statewide Deployment of CourtView

CourtView has been deployed in seven courts (Palmer, Anchorage Fairbanks, Nome, Barrow, Kotzebue and Unalakleet). At the current rate, the court estimates that it will take at least four more years to convert all remaining courts to CourtView; during that time the court must continue to support two different systems. External agencies, including state and local law enforcement and prosecutors, corrections, and social service agencies, including those responsible for employment screening, consistently report that availability of CourtView records on-line saves time formerly spent obtaining paper documents in person or by mail/fax, and provides them with more of the information they need to do their jobs. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) gave the court system a small subgrant in FY08 to help expedite rollout of CourtView for courts on the main road system because courts using the older system cannot

participate in an electronic traffic citation filing program managed by DOT. One of the high priority recommendations of the Alaska Traffic Records Assessment conducted in FY07 was to deploy CourtView statewide. Additional project resources are needed to expedite the rollout so that more courts, other agencies and members of the public can benefit from the CourtView improvements and the court can eliminate duplicate services to support two systems.

The funding request will pay for a project position to assist with data conversion, training and user assistance in order to convert more courts to CourtView over the next three years.