

Oregon eCourt Update from the Chief Justice

In February, the legislature established funding for two of eight stages of the Oregon Judicial Department's Oregon eCourt project. This project will be implemented over the next five years. When completed, there will be a statewide centralized electronic system for all state courts, of all sizes, which will increase access to court information, create uniformity, and move toward a paperless environment.

The OJIN system will eventually be replaced with a new electronic system. In addition to the OJIN functions, payment of fees and the like, docketing, jury management, and submission of briefing will be included in the new system. The system will have different levels of access to address confidentiality and privacy issues.

At the April 4 meeting of the Board of Governors, the Chief Justice presented information on the first phase of the Oregon eCourt project and the changes that will be implemented in the next several months. At present, the changes affect only the Oregon Supreme Court.

The new appellate docketing system is called the Appellate Case Management System ("ACMS"). ACMS is now accessible, with supreme court briefs on the merits available to the public online. As of May 1, 2007, all parties filing a brief on the merits were required to e-mail a copy of the document in portable document format (PDF). To learn about this requirement, click here: <http://www.ojd.state.or.us/courts/supreme/Electronicbriefs.htm>

Chief Justice De Muniz explained that in the next 90 days web portal access to the e-filing interface will be available, as will fee payments and electronic filing of supreme court initiating documents. This will be expanded over the next several months to allow the electronic filing of all supreme court documents. User training programs are also on the horizon. The OJD intends to have the Oregon eCourt program fully implemented at the appellate level within one to two years, and statewide within five years.

The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors has approved formation of the OSB Task Force on Oregon eCourt Implementation to provide feedback and updates to members on the progress of the Oregon eCourt program. The first meeting of the task force was held May 21.

If you wish to access ACMS and view briefs on the merits, click here:
<http://www.ojd.state.or.us/scdocket>

Court Facilities Assessment Underway

The 2007 legislature appropriated up to \$1.2 million for a comprehensive study of court facilities around the state. In December 2007 the joint Interim Committee on Court Facilities authorized the court assessment project to go forward. The committee adopted assessment criteria based in large part on the criteria developed in the 2005-07 interim by the *ad hoc* Court Facilities Task Force, which was a collaborative effort among the courts, the counties and the bar.