



2013 update from the Chief Justice

The Oregon Judicial Department has successfully completed the initial steps to implement Oregon eCourt, and is poised to take the next steps for statewide implementation.

We have completed the planning and process requirements requested by the legislature, have successfully implemented the core system in a pilot court, and are continuing our roll-out to four additional courts before the end of this budget period. We are entering the 2013 legislative session with requests for continued funding and statutory changes to ensure that we can continue on our course.

We have set an aggressive implementation schedule, which will give us a statewide system in 2016 – but still have challenges to overcome, decisions to make, and can expect some bumps in the road ahead. Learning and using this system is a significant challenge to our judges and staff, who must learn and use the new system while keeping pace with their caseloads. It also presents challenges to those who rely on the courts for information, who also need to learn and adjust to different ways of doing work.

Just as Oregon eCourt will be an important part of our budget request, it also will be an increasingly important part of our operations as the Odyssey system is installed in all the trial courts over the next three years.

We have had an eCourt system in the appellate courts for some time, and had our first Oregon eCourt installation of the Odyssey system in Yamhill County Circuit Court on June 4, 2012, followed by installations in Crook, Jefferson, and Linn County Circuit Courts on December 10, 2012. Oregon has officially joined the six states and dozens of major metropolitan courts that use the Odyssey system for court operations.

Oregon eCourt will change court business processes in significant ways. Court staff and judges will need to learn new ways of doing things. It will bring an added sense of uniformity and cohesion to the Oregon Judicial Department and to court operations. Benefits to the public will include better access to court information, the convenience of online services, and saving time and money while doing business with the courts.

The Oregon eCourt system is a tool that will allow our judges and staff to work more efficiently, and will provide better access, better information, and better outcomes for Oregonians.

Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer