



# Oregon eCourt

Oregon eCourt will give courts and judges the tools they need to provide just, prompt, and safe resolution of civil disputes; to improve public safety and the quality of life in our communities; and to improve lives of children and families in crisis.

## March 2009 Program Status

### Continued Funding for Oregon eCourt Keeps the Vision Alive in Tough Times

The State of Oregon is facing tough fiscal times. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), along with all state government, is under pressure to find the best solutions to meet projected budget shortfalls. The OJD's operating budget is comprised primarily of General Fund and Other funds. This money is what funds the day-to-day costs of running the Oregon Judicial Department.

In contrast, the Oregon eCourt program is funded with Certificates of Participation (COPs), which are a form of bonds. As a result of recent legislative approval, the Oregon eCourt Program has received \$7.5 million in COP funding, with approval to spend \$4 million between now and June 2009. This money will fund legislatively approved Oregon eCourt projects, including contractors and staff, through June of 2009. It is anticipated that the Oregon eCourt Program will receive approval to spend the remaining \$3.5 million in funding, which should allow continuation of projects through October of 2009.

The Oregon eCourt project team has prepared a COP financing request to continue Oregon eCourt through July 2011. It was presented to the Legislature on March 26th as part of budget hearings for the 2009-2011 Biennium. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) will provide recommendations to the Legislature on future COP financing of Oregon eCourt based on the successful completion of Oregon eCourt remediation projects identified by LFO in the previous funding cycle. It is important to remember that Oregon eCourt is moving forward...at a slower pace than initially anticipated...but we are moving forward.

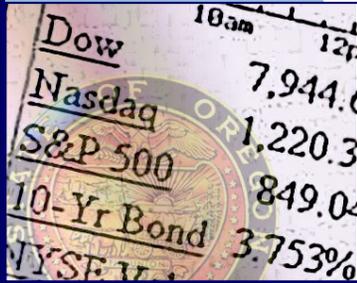
The Chief Justice and State Court Administrator continue to devote substantial time to their work in support of the Oregon eCourt Program even in these tough financial times.



*“As a result of recent legislative approval, the Oregon eCourt Program has received \$7.5 million in COP funding, with approval to spend \$4 million between now and June 2009.”*



## Where Does Oregon eCourt Funding Come From?



*“Oregon eCourt is an integral part of our strategic plan for the future...”*



The Oregon eCourt Program is funded almost entirely through financing from the sale of bonds called Certificates of Participation (COPs). These certificates are sold to investors who benefit by receiving COP debt repayments which include interest income that is exempt from both federal and Oregon income tax.

Departments and agencies within the State of Oregon, upon approval by the Legislature and the Executive Branch, use COPs to finance capital investments such as construction, building retrofits, the purchase of major equipment, or as in the case of Oregon eCourt, development and implementation of major Information Technology projects needed for the delivery of public services.

Once the Legislature approves COP financing for a project, it outlines specific directives that the project must meet both in terms of spending the funds and in the results produced by the funding. This process is designed to ensure that COP funding adheres to the certificate terms, remains closely monitored, and that the progress of the project is reviewed by the Legislature. Further COP funding is often determined by the ability of the project to reasonably complete legislative directives.

COP funding for the Oregon eCourt Program can only be applied to the series of planned projects and activities that have been approved by the Legislature for Oregon eCourt. It cannot be used for operations of the department or for operation of Oregon eCourt components that are already in place (such as the Appellate eCourt components).

When fully implemented, the Oregon eCourt Program will provide a more cost-effective and cost-saving system through which to deliver court services. In the words of Chief Justice De Muniz:

“Oregon eCourt is an integral part of our strategic plan for the future to improve our courts and the public’s

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### ...Web Portal Team Progress Report

site will also be compliant with the Web Accessibility Initiative and the Americans with Disabilities Act (WAI-ADA).

#### OJD Web Portal:

The OJD web portal will tie web pages, applications, registration, and single sign-on into a uniform package. The framework for the web portal has also been completed. It provides the basic page structure that supports individual windows (or "portlets") that contain varying topics of information within the page. The next steps for the web portal include:

- Creating a registration function
- Creating portlets (windows) to connect electronic content management system and e-filing
- Creating the court calendar function

These steps are important, because portlets (windows) are controlled by the role assigned during the registration process. For example, if someone has not registered for e-filing, that person would not even see the e-filing portlet (window).

Members of the web portal team are receiving training and experience to prepare them to use the new tools to support the OJD web portal including:

- Portal administration
- Portlet development
- TeamSite component development
- Workflows
- Dynamic content
- Integration with existing OJD systems



#### OJD Mission:

Provide fair and accessible justice services that protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare, and inspire public confidence.