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.

Winter 2009 Program Status

Oregon eCourt To Refocus 2009–2011 Implementation Plan

The Oregon eCourt Program continues to achieve a number of significant accomplishments as it moves toward the objective of improved access to Oregon courts and court services that are more efficient and effective. For the future, in light of ongoing state budget limitations and to better mitigate the identified risks involved in implementing Oregon eCourt, the Oregon Judicial Department is refocusing the path of the implementation plans that were scheduled for the remainder of the 2009-2011 biennium.

The Oregon eCourt Program Sponsors have approved a refocus plan that targets the following major activities:

- **Implement Oregon eCourt ECM in the Appellate Courts.** An Enterprise Content Management (ECM) system is being developed and implemented in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. ECM is the final technological component needed to give the appellate courts a fully functional Oregon eCourt system. Several ECM workflow phases will be completed during 2009-2011.

- **Continue Implementation of ECM for Small Claims and Landlord-Tenant (FED) Cases in the Pilot Courts**. ECM has been introduced in Yamhill and Multnomah courts, and is scheduled to be introduced in Jackson, Crook, and Jefferson in early 2010. Once ECM has been fully tested and proven in the pilot courts, implementation in other courts will be scheduled.

- **Develop and Implement eFiling in the Pilot Courts**. eFiling will be applied to the two case types (Small Claims and FED) already in the pilot courts, and will be rolled out to other courts only after it is tested and proven in the pilots. Major work in eFiling will not occur until 2011.

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The refocus plan reduces Oregon eCourt expenditures in 2009—2011 by about 6.5 percent.

- **Continue to Develop ECM and eFiling Workflows for Civil Cases**. If approved by the Oregon eCourt Implementation Committee, ECM and eFiling workflows for civil cases will be introduced in the pilot courts.

- **Postpone ECM Technical Work on Other Case Types (criminal, probate, domestic relations, juvenile, and etc.).** Policy work in these areas will continue.

- **Develop a Person-Based Data Repository.** This repository will identify all types of cases involving any specific person or family. This allows judges and staff to identify all the cases in which a person or family is involved (criminal, family, domestic relations, etc.), contributing to administrative efficiencies and better decision-making.

- **Continue Planning, Management, and Quality Control Activities.** These functions are necessary to ensure appropriate implementation and oversight of the Oregon eCourt Program. These activities include completing key planning documents, ensuring integration of all the Oregon eCourt projects into a fully functioning program, organizational change management, and business process re-engineering.

The next steps are for the refocus plan to be reviewed by the legislature in the upcoming February 2010 session as they decide whether to authorize the sale of Certificates of Participation that are part of the legislatively approved 2009 Oregon eCourt funding. The refocus plan reduces Oregon eCourt expenditures in 2009-11 by $1.6 million (about 6.5 percent).

Oregon eCourt's Web Portal Project

The Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) first step in the development of an online courthouse has been to construct a web portal framework, which will house all of the available online court functions through secured web pages. When the Oregon eCourt web portal is complete, it will allow attorneys, litigants, the public,

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The Oregon eCourt Internet Website has made its public debut as of December 10, 2009. Click on the link to the new website at the bottom of any page in the newsletter to visit Oregon eCourt's web pages.

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OJD judges and staff, and other stakeholders to conduct a significant portion of their court business online using standard computer and web browsing technology. These court business services will include direct access to information, online payments, and filing cases electronically (eFiling).

The first release of the web portal will provide limited services such as:

- **Court locations, calendars, and jury information** (three of the most visited pages on the circuit court websites)
- **Links to the most requested web pages** for the Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA)
- **Searchable** court dockets
- **Special notices** issued by the courts
- **Key judicial news** and news releases

Users will need to register to access Oregon eCourt Services and create a personalized page called a "MyPortal Page." Once a user is registered they will have access to various online services and be notified of new services as they become available. For OJD judges and staff, access to the OSCA intranet will only be available through the web portal.

Oregon eCourt Program Sponsor approval is anticipated to occur in December 2009, followed by a three-to-six week rollout. The initial rollout of the Oregon eCourt web portal will be completed court-by-court since each court varies in how it provides Internet access for their users. Once the web portal rollout for individual courts and OSCA is complete, the web portal will be made available for public access.

When the Oregon eCourt web portal is complete, it will allow attorneys, case participants, the public, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) judges and staff, and other public safety agencies to conduct a significant portion of their court business online.

Sample mockup of OJD's portal page

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Oregon eCourt Newsletter To Go Quarterly

The Office of Education, Training, and Outreach (OETO) has started development of a quarterly newsletter that will feature articles with more in-depth information on Oregon eCourt. The new quarterly newsletter will replace the monthly Oregon eCourt newsletter, and will include project status updates plus perspectives from the courts and various Oregon eCourt committees. The quarterly newsletter is scheduled to be published in the following months starting in 2010:

- March (spring edition)
- June (summer edition)
- September (fall edition)
- December (winter edition)

Monthly updates on Oregon eCourt will be distributed in the form of a bulletin, also developed by OETO. The bulletin will derive its content from the monthly Oregon eCourt Program Status Report, which is produced by the Project Management Office (PMO). Information in the new bulletin will focus on providing readers with high-level information about the Oregon eCourt Program including:

- Accomplishments by program area
- Program budget variance for active projects
- Planned activities by program area

Both the new quarterly Oregon eCourt Newsletter and the monthly Bulletin will be posted on the Oregon eCourt Internet site for public access and will be available to Oregon Judicial Department judges and staff on the Oregon eCourt intranet pages.

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