

Acquisition of an Automated Case Management System **FY2001 Request:** **\$1,450,000**
Reference No: **31308**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Information Systems
Category: Public Protection **Contact:** Rhonda McLeod
Location: Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/1999 - 06/30/2002

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

First phase of a two-phase project to procure and install a comprehensive, centralized case management system, new terminals, and PCs. For over ten years, the inadequacy of the court's information system has been recognized. Most of the court's end-user computer equipment (terminals and PCs) is outdated and incapable of running the state of the art case management software and is no longer supported by vendors.

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000					\$2,900,000
Total:	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,900,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<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
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Prior funding includes: \$437,500 in FY1993; \$437,500 in FY1994, and \$400,000 in FY1997.

Project Description/Justification:

The Alaska Court System requests \$1,450,000 for the first phase of a two-phase project to procure and install a comprehensive and centralized case management system. For over ten years, the inadequacy of the court's information system has been recognized. The inadequacy of the system limits the court's effectiveness in several significant areas. First, it makes meaningful analysis of court operations very difficult and thus, limits the court's ability to respond quickly and efficiently to legislative changes. Second, it makes timely and informative responses to legislative inquiries on court operations almost impossible, hampering the ability of the legislature to make important policy decisions regarding public safety. Third, it makes electronic data transfer of court outcome information and financial information to other state agencies unreliable and thus increases state costs by requiring repetitive manual entry of this data by other state agencies, such as DPS, DFYS, DOL, DMV, and CSED. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it inhibits the court's ability to gather important information about prior criminal histories of defendants and their compliance with sentences imposed, reducing revenue from fines and fees, and negatively impacting the quality of justice provided to the people of Alaska.

The case management automation project has a long history. In 1989, trial court and administrative office staff started development of specifications for a computerized case management system. Originally, the court system planned to develop the system in-house because case management systems were not available commercially. As interest in court technology grew nationally, commercial software developers began offering comprehensive, integrated case management systems. As the complexity of the proposed system increased, the court selected a commercial software developer to complete the detailed design and programming.

In the Fall of 1998 the court determined that the impending approach of the year 2000 and the resultant failure of the court State of Alaska Capital Project Summary
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case management hardware (servers) and operating systems required a redirection of resources to enable the court to continue to operate into the year 2000. With this decision, the court allocated the remainder of its available funding to acquiring servers and operating systems that would be Y2K compliant. For the next several months, court staff acquired and installed new Pentium based servers, operating systems and modified the antiquated case management system in all 28 court locations to make both the application and the servers Y2K compliant. They also updated the wiring in the court locations to be able to connect to and utilize the state's wide area network. This Y2K preparation and conversion was successfully completed in July 1999.

Most of the court's end-user computer equipment (terminals and PC's) is outdated, incapable of running the state of the art case management software and is no longer supported by the vendors. Equipment repairs are costly and parts are increasingly difficult to obtain.

With the development of the State's wide area network, the court system has the opportunity to move from the stand-alone computer approach. The network makes it more feasible and economical to operate the case management system on central database servers via the wide area network. The current case management system is comprised of 28 separate servers at 28 different locations. Required programming modifications that result from new legislation or other changes, have to be installed 28 times, rather than once as would be the case if the database was centralized and the courts networked. To accomplish this, the court needs to replace its case management system, terminals, and PC's.

The strategy adopted by the court in this funding request is to acquire half of the required funding this fiscal year with the remainder of the funding coming in the next fiscal year. After considerable research on the cost, acquisition, and implementation timelines required for this project, court staff are confident that a comprehensive and centralized case management system can be operational within two years from the date of funding the project. The total cost of this project will not exceed three million dollars and would be off-set through potential reductions in data entry staff in agencies that do redundant manual data entry and increased fine and fee collection.