



## Background

At the beginning of the 1990s, the trial courts comprised 58 municipal and 58 superior courts with multiple courthouses in each of the 58 counties. The funding for each of these courts was bifurcated with the bulk of funding being provided by the counties and only a small portion provided by state funding. The two-tier municipal and superior branches and the bifurcated funding structure left the trial courts with fragmented and highly variable levels of administrative and technological capabilities.

The fragmented structure and funding of the California trial courts created several challenges for the judicial branch including:

- Inconsistent technological capabilities, such as interfacing with local justice partners, or from one trial court to another. Technical capabilities within a trial court were heavily dependent on the funding and technical abilities of each county.
- Diverse systems made it difficult for the judicial branch to assemble, maintain, and disseminate the most basic information about court case statistics branchwide.
- Disparate local technology strategies and solutions within the trial courts made it impossible for the branch to develop a cohesive statewide strategy for modernizing standard business processes.

## The Solution: CCMS

The California Court Case Management System (CCMS) is a statewide technology initiative to bring the courts together to use one application for all case categories. CCMS utilizes the technology and the functionality developed for civil, incorporates criminal and traffic functionality, and new functionality for family law, juvenile delinquency, and juvenile dependency. Additional areas of functionality in CCMS include court interpreter and court reporter management, statewide statistics and a public internet portal.

CCMS is an essential component of the Judicial Branch's strategic plan for technology. The strategy includes transforming paper-based processes to electronic transactions, where business with the courts occurs primarily through the internet with improved service timeframes. CCMS will revolutionize the way court staff, commissioners and judges manage all court cases. CCMS's is being built with three distinct components that include a core product, an Internet portal, a statewide data warehouse. An integrated services backbone (ISB) is also being developed to manage data exchanges with justice partners. The core product includes the functions required for the courts to conduct their business. The Internet portal is the Web interface that will be accessible to all court justice partners and the public. The statewide reporting data warehouse will store case information used for statistics and reporting. The data exchanges will allow for an easy exchange of information between the courts and their local justice partners, including the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), California Highway Patrol and other state agencies.

## Benefits of CCMS

**CCMS will have broad-ranging impacts. Far from just affecting the way the courts perform their day-to-day business, CCMS will provide significant advantages to state and local law enforcement agencies, child welfare services, child support services, social services, and everyone who uses the court system.**



## Critical Improvements to Public Safety

CCMS will:

- Connect the courts with probation and parole departments, correctional institutions, and law enforcement agencies to provide officers in those entities with up-to-the-minute data about court orders, convictions, probation terms, and sentencing.
- Expedite the transfer of criminal history information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Criminal Information Center via the California Department of Justice. Improve integration with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and departments of justice in other states to enhance information sharing about outstanding warrants and court convictions.
- Link the courts with the California Department of Justice's domestic violence and protective order registry, providing real-time updates about all court orders across the state.
- Provide law enforcement officers with current information in their jurisdiction regardless of where the court orders were imposed.
- Enable officers to make direct inquiries of CCMS via patrol vehicle computers and handheld mobile devices, to make inquiries about an individual who is contacted during a routine patrol stop.
- Enable automated processing of warrants. Today some warrants are still sent to law enforcement agencies on paper, leading to failure to arrest known offenders or the improper detention of members of the public.
- Provide the ability for law enforcement agencies to submit traffic citations electronically to the courts. This will save significant trial court, local law enforcement, and CHP resources currently required to enter this data manually.

## Enhanced Public Access

CCMS will:

- Enable litigants to electronically file cases, saving the time and expense of traveling to court.
- Provide public access to certain court records across the state regardless of jurisdiction, as permitted by law.
- Allow self-represented litigants greater ability to process cases by providing Internet and Web-based functionality.
- Online ability to pay for traffic tickets or request an extension.
- Ability to check court calendars and schedules online.
- Internet access to court data.
- Allow parties in a case to view court calendars on-line.
- Provide the ability to conduct certain court transaction via the internet, such as payment of traffic citations or other court ordered fines and fees.

## Improved Court Efficiencies

CCMS will:

- Provide judges with critical information when they are hearing cases and making decisions about releasing criminal defendants, placing children in foster care or reunifying them with their parents, ordering custody or visitation, and issuing protective or restraining orders.
- Create common standards for information integration and sharing between justice agencies and the courts.
- Make data viewable across all case types.
- Save valuable resources currently used to enter data that will be updated electronically.



## “Greening” of the Courts

CCMS will:

- Decrease vehicle trips to courthouses as a result of electronic access to court data and the e-filing of cases and documents.
- Eliminate the need to print millions of pages of paper because of document management systems, electronic filing, and Internet viewing of court data.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the judicial branch.