

Message from Justice Douglas P. Miller on Future of Information Sharing with Partners

On Tuesday, March 27, 2012, the Judicial Council met in a special, full-day session to review options for statewide court technology in the context of the state fiscal crisis and unprecedented budget reductions to the courts. We made the difficult decision to stop the deployment of the California Court Case Management System (CCMS). An integrated, statewide case management system has been the vision of leaders in the courts and state government for more than a decade.

The initial goal of replacing costly and sometimes failing local case management systems was expanded over the years to include services for many justice system partners and the public. As development of the system reached its critical final phase, the state fiscal crisis and severe budget constraints delayed completion of the final product. In recent years, the council redirected more than \$170 million from the project to ameliorate budget reductions to the courts. When the final product, CCMS V4, was delivered last November, the council initiated an independent review of the costs for deployment. That analysis by Grant Thornton provided the factual basis for our discussion today. At an estimated cost of \$343 million for deployment to 11 courts over the next 10 years, the state cannot afford to continue its investment in CCMS now, even if it is to achieve longer term efficiencies and cost benefits in the future. Instead, the Judicial Council directed that CCMS V4 be terminated, and that the software and technology be leveraged for data exchange, document management, e-filing, electronic access, and other critical needs.

As significant as the decision is to end CCMS, in my view the more important decision coming out of the council meeting is the council's direction to develop a new branch technology vision and roadmap. This will occur over the next several months under the leadership of Judge James Herman, chair of the council's CCMS Internal Committee.

The data exchange work already performed to date as well as ongoing work regarding data integration and the exchange of information with our partners supports the efforts going forward in leveraging existing CCMS components separate from deployment. Much of the work completed between the trial courts, branch, AOC and partners to date continues to address issues such as efficiencies, accuracy of data and the electronic sharing of information. It is my hope that the relationships and support our partners have provided will continue as we create our vision to enhance justice partner and public access and transparency of case information.

Regards,

Justice Douglas P. Miller
4th District Court of Appeal, Division 2