



Report to the Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter
and the
1st Regular Session of the
64th Idaho Legislature

IDAHO JUDICIARY

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IDAHO'S COURT TECHNOLOGY FUND

Odyssey to Improve Access, Enhance Data Sharing and Maximize Efficiency

In the third year of a five-year plan, the Idaho Judicial Branch continued the implementation phase of its most significant business and technology transformation initiative, which includes a transition to digital court records and statewide business practices in Idaho's courts. This new capability is providing improved access to court records, greater convenience for court users, better information exchanges with judicial partners, and significant efficiency improvements for court personnel.

State-of-the-Art Court Case Management System and Electronic Filing

On August 8, 2016, following several weeks of on-site training, Ada County – which comprises over one quarter of the state's court case filings – became the second county to discontinue use of the legacy Idaho Statewide Trial Court Automated Records System (ISTARS) and to transition to Odyssey, a proven case management solution from Tyler Technologies.

The Ada County deployment was principally noteworthy as the first implementation phase that delivered the full suite of capabilities in a single go-live event for a broad group of criminal justice stakeholders including: Odyssey Case Manager for all court case types; Odyssey Attorney Manager for the Ada County prosecutors and public defenders; Odyssey Supervision for problem-solving courts; Session Works for Judges; Odyssey File & Serve for e-filing and e-service for all attorneys practicing in Ada County; iCourt Portal for Ada County case searches and on-line payments; Ada County data sharing integrations with the Idaho State Tax Commission, Department of Juvenile Correction, Idaho State Police, Idaho Department of Transportation, and VINE notifications; e-citation integration for the City of Meridian; and data sharing reports to the cities of Boise, Meridian, and Garden City.

The overall transition to this new solution was highly successful for the scope and scale of Ada County. As expected for any go-live event of this size, several issues were reported as part of this deployment; however, at the end of the first week, only one critical issue remained open which was a remarkable outcome for such a complex implementation event. This result was a testament to the commitment and focus provided by both county and state stakeholders who collaborated throughout the previous year in preparation for this go-live.

Effective October 3, 2016, mandatory electronic filing was required of all attorneys filing documents in Ada County. This timeline enabled Ada County to quickly transition to an electronic courthouse, enabling parties to submit electronic documents at any time, from anywhere, while driving significant efficiencies for attorneys and court clerks. This system also allows filing parties to digitally serve others and eliminate time, paper, mailing, and courier costs.

The Idaho Supreme Court has now shifted its focus to deliver Odyssey to the remaining 10 counties in Judicial Districts 4 and 5 – Blaine, Boise, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Valley. The plan is to launch Odyssey in these counties on April 3, 2017.

I.C. § 1-1623 Report

The Idaho Supreme Court, as required in I.C. § 1-1623, annually reports on court technology and the status of the dedicated Court Technology Fund. The legislature has long supported a statewide approach to court technology, beginning with general fund appropriations in FY1987 for programming costs associated with the design of a model Trial Court Information System. Starting in FY1990, general funds were appropriated

for the installation of the Idaho Statewide Trial Courts Automated Record System (ISTARS). Beginning in 1997, a new method of funding court technology was implemented with the creation of a dedicated technology fund receiving fees from criminal cases and a portion of filing fees in civil cases. In FY2006, convenience fees from credit card transactions were added, and in FY2010 a portion of the emergency surcharge was also added.

In 2013, the Supreme Court was notified that ISTARS was at “end of life,” and a new court technology solution would need to be identified and implemented. In order to fund this project, the Court created a five-year business plan in which funding would be raised in three ways: 1) current technology fund revenue streams; 2) an increase in certain civil filing fees as contained in HB509 (2014); and 3) a series of one-time general fund allocations.

(1) Status of the Fund:

a. In response to the Supreme Court’s proposed five-year business plan, the Legislature previously provided three, one-time general fund appropriations for Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017 in the amounts of \$4.85 million, \$2.18 million and \$2 million respectively. The business plan calls for a fourth one-time appropriation request for FY2018 in the sum of \$1.85 million and a fifth in FY2019 in the sum of \$1.8 million.

b. The Technology Fund also receives funds from criminal fees and civil filing fees. Fee revenues fluctuate due to variables beyond the Court’s control, including the number of case filings and collection rates. For example, initial filings in civil cases in the District Courts dropped 18.1% from 2014 to 2016. During that same time period, initial filings in civil cases in the Magistrate’s Division dropped 12.8%. As a result, the funds actually collected from the increased civil filing fees in HB509 have not reached projections. In FY2015, total dedicated revenues were \$8,104,348, with HB509 revenues falling 1.8% below projections. In FY2016, total dedicated revenues were \$8,565,224, with HB509 revenues falling 8% below projections. Based upon both Idaho and national trends, the trajectory of these declines may well continue in the foreseeable future. It is now clear that the fee revenues will be inadequate to meet the projected needs outlined in the five-year business plan. Specifically, the estimated, cumulative fee revenue shortfall is expected to be in the range of \$3,769,000 through the statewide implementation of Odyssey.

c. For FY2018, the Supreme Court will seek a one-time general fund appropriation for court technology which includes both the originally planned \$1.85 million request as well as an additional \$1.88 million to address fee revenue shortfalls, for a total request of a one-time, general fund appropriation of \$3.73 million.

(2) Maintenance, replacement and enhancement of technology: The Court continues to use the Fund to maintain the existing ISTARS software and will do so until all counties are converted to Odyssey. As indicated above, the technology team has made significant progress in deploying Odyssey to Ada County and preparing for an additional 10 counties this fiscal year.

(3) Manner in which court technology has advanced the courts in Idaho: The deployment of court technology, to include Odyssey, is transforming how our courts work and how individuals interact with the courts. Through electronic filing and service, electronic case processing, electronic court operations, and electronic access, citizens can now expect the same level of service and capabilities within their courts as they expect with other entities that they commonly engage. Furthermore, this transformation is enabling the courts to optimize the time and use of existing court personnel, to share statewide data via a unified statewide case management system, and to enhance statewide, district and local court data reporting capabilities.

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Mission Statement of the Idaho Courts

*As the Third Branch of
Government, we provide
access to justice by ensuring
fair processes and the timely,
impartial resolution of cases.*

The Idaho Courts stand for:
Integrity
Fairness
Independence
Respect
Excellence
Innovation

The Idaho Courts strive to:

**Provide Timely,
Impartial Case
Resolution through
Legally Fair Procedures**

Ensure Access to Justice

**Promote Effective,
Innovative Services**

**Increase Public Trust
and Confidence in
Idaho Courts**

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