

CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Resolution 8

The Emergence of E-Everything

WHEREAS, the Conference of State Court Administrators recognizes that as the public has embraced the Internet and other advanced technologies into the fabric of their personal and professional lives, which has increased the demand on government organizations for technology based services; and

WHEREAS, the Conference understands that technology has changed the scope of the judiciary's responsibility to preserve the American tradition of open courts; and

WHEREAS, the Conference further recognizes that state courts have the opportunity to enhance the public's ability to meaningfully observe and participate in the judicial process through these technologies; and

WHEREAS, a White Paper, *The Emergence of E-Everything*, examined the policy and logistical issues surrounding the electronic access revolution in the state courts; and

WHEREAS, the White Paper identified two principles related to electronic access to the courts: (1) with due regard for reasonable privacy concerns, court information and services should be open, accessible, and convenient through the use of electronic access technology and (2) electronic access should be free or inexpensive; and

WHEREAS, the White Paper further examined best practices for providing the public with electronic access to the state courts and identified additional technology policies that need to be addressed by the state court community; and

WHEREAS, the White Paper provided an overall policy framework within which each state court system may establish electronic access policies and identified fundamental first steps to be considered by the Conference membership as they develop their own individual state court action plans:

- Develop an integrated statewide court website that is ADA compliant,
- Put the oversight of website management under the state court administrator and develop protocols to keep the court website up-to-date,
- Appoint a committee of attorneys and court users to review website and E-offerings,
- Put all calendars on the web site for free,
- Develop protocols to ensure free or reasonably priced electronic access to court decisions and other court documents,

- Pilot e-filing and consider the vendor role and adopting the national e-filing data standards,
- Offer on-line payment of fees and fines,
- Pursue video conferencing experiments,
- Construct a mobile E-courtroom for use throughout the courthouse, and
- Offer Internet access to court users (attorneys, jurors) in targeted areas of the courthouses; and

WHEREAS, the White Paper concluded with three proposed national strategies to support implementation of the recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of State Court Administrators adopts the White Paper, as revised, requests that the President of the Conference assign the White Paper to the appropriate committees to foster the implementation of the recommendations, and commits to take necessary steps to implement the recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of State Court Administrators supports the need for an emphasis on policy development and governance and hereby agrees to establish the following national action plan,

- The Conference encourages the development of national functional and data standards for automated state court systems and encourages each state to comply with the standards as they develop and enhance their own automated systems,
- Each state should establish a process and a governing body to create and modify policy on electronic access issues,
- Each state should establish a meaningful strategic plan to guide implementation of electronic access initiatives,
- NCSC should conduct a recurring national survey of existing state court policies and strategies on implementing electronic access to state court systems, and
- NCSC should convene a summit to discuss the results of the national survey and to explore methods of fostering implementation of state court electronic access initiatives.

Adopted as proposed by the Policy and Liaison Committee at the COSCA 2005 Midyear Meeting, San Diego, California, December 9, 2005.