



FY13 Outlook

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Vision

The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.

Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

Minnesota Judicial Branch

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STATE OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH—FY13

RE-ENGINEERING FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

The Judicial Branch is implementing an ambitious reform agenda to expand the use of technology and reengineer business processes to increase efficiency and reduce costs, while continuing to provide Minnesotans with quality justice:

- **Centralized Payables**—We are moving the processing of the 1 million payable citations courts handle each year from all 87 counties to a centralized, virtual payment center which has staff around the state working from home to process paper and electronic citations and support a centralized call center. Payment can be by phone, on-line, or mail.

This effort:

- ◇ Provides new and more efficient opportunities for the public to pay outstanding fines (Web payments and phone payments) 24/7;
- ◇ Frees up local court staff to concentrate efforts on high priority court work; and
- ◇ Increases collections, resulting in more revenue for municipal, county, and state government.

- **eCourtMN** – We have launched a multi-year transformational project to move courts from a paper to an electronic records world. Hennepin and Ramsey courts pilot tested electronic filing (e-filing) in civil cases and recently announced that eFiling and eService will be mandatory in civil and family cases as of September 1, 2012. Nine additional pilot sites have been identified for implementation over the next two years. In addition the Appellate Courts implemented e-noticing in July 2011. The goal is to increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve convenience for litigants, attorneys and the public.

- **E-Citation**—Allows traffic citations to be entered into squad car computers, transferred electronically to police and sheriff's departments' case systems, and sent directly into the court's case management system, MNCIS. AS of July 1, 2012 it is used in 71 counties and on a statewide basis by the State Patrol.

This effort will:

- ◇ Save time for law enforcement and court staff; and
- ◇ Increase accuracy for the law enforcement officer on the scene.

- **E-Complaint** - The BCA is implementing and we are partnering with them, a system to enable county attorneys to file complaints electronically. As of July 1, it is used in 41 counties.

- **Centralized Conservator Annual Accounting Reports**— On January 1, 2011 a statewide on-line system was implemented for conservators to provide statutorily mandated annual reports and for courts to review the conservator accounts.

The on-line system is more efficient for court staff and, has made possible the creation of a specialized auditing unit to improve court oversight for these important cases.

- **Expanded use of ITV** – The Supreme Court recently promulgated court rules aimed at providing greater use of ITV in criminal matters, which will result in cost savings for justice partners.
- **Criminal Justice Forum**– We are meeting with criminal justice partners to continue our search for more effective and cost efficient services.
- **Adjunct Judicial Officers** – We are expanding the use of local pro bono attorneys to hear conciliation court cases and referees in family law matters to enhance adjudication capacity.
- **CourtSmart**– Hennepin County is moving toward increased use of remote video monitoring of electronic court recording in lieu of a live court reporter in each courtroom. Similar technology is being implemented in other locations.
- **Technology-aided Training**–Using video conferencing, webcasts and webex technology, we have reduced costly in-person sessions while increasing the number of judges and staff trained.
- **Remote Interpreting**–Remote video and telephone interpreting technology is being used to reduce court interpreter travel time and cost.

OUR COMMITMENT

- The Judicial Branch will continue to be aggressive in it's efforts to provide effective and cost efficient services;
- We will work with Justice System partners to identify ways to better coordinate work and find efficiencies across organizational boundaries; and
- We will continue to partner with the Legislature to provide the quality judicial services our citizens expect and deserve.

"The courts are one of the first promises made in our Constitution. They are essential to preserving our democracy, securing the rule of law and ensuring the public safety."

– Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea, Minnesota Supreme Court