

STATE OF VERMONT JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To:

James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management

From:

Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst

Date:

December 19, 2008

Subject:

JFO #2352, #2353, #2354, #2355, #2356, #2357, #2360, #2361, #2362,

#2363, #2364, #2365, #2366

At the December 19, 2008 meeting of the Joint Fiscal Committee, the following grant requests were approved:

JFO #2352 — \$807,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Agency of Human Services - Department of Health.

JFO #2353 — \$9,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Agency of Natural Resource – Environmental Conservation.

JFO #2354 — \$161,407 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Department of Corrections.

JFO #2355 — \$20,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to the Judiciary – Vermont Supreme Court.

JFO #2356 — \$333,002 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Judiciary – Court Administrator's Office.

JFO #2357 — \$212,408 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Judiciary – Court Administrator's Office.

JFO #2360 — \$2,000,000 grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Agency of Human Services — Department of Mental Health.

JFO #2361 — \$21,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to the Judiciary.

JFO #2362 — \$32,125 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Vermont Department of Education.

JFO #2363 — \$166,160 grant from the Center for Applied and Special Technology to the Vermont Department of Education.

PHONE: (802) 828-2295

FAX: (802) 828-2483

JFO #2364 — \$12,000 grant from the National Governor's Association to the Agency of Human Services – Department of Children and Families. This grant was approved with the understanding that expenditure of the \$9,885 in state funds, as originally proposed, was no longer considered necessary and would not occur.

JFO #2365 — \$19,140 donation from the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

JFO #2366 — \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to the Agency of Transportation – Department of Motor Vehicles.

In accordance with 32 V.S.A. §5, these grants were placed on the Joint Fiscal Committee agenda and subsequently approved by vote of the Committee. We ask that you inform the Secretary of Administration and your staff of this action.

cc: Robert Hofmann, Secretary
Wendy Davis, Commissioner
Michael Hartman, Commissioner
Stephen Dale, Commissioner
Andrew Pallito, Acting Commissioner
Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Lee Suskin, Court Administrator
Roger Allbee, Secretary
David Dill, Secretary
Bonnie Rutledge, Commissioner
George Crombie, Secretary
Laura Pelosi, Commissioner



STATE OF VERMONT JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To:

Joint Fiscal Committee Members

From:

Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst

Date:

December 4, 2008

Subject:

Grant Requests

Enclosed please find three (3) requests which the Joint Fiscal Office recently received from the Administration:

JFO #2355 — \$20,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to the Judiciary – Vermont Supreme Court. These grant funds will be used to fund scholarships for out of state training and education of trial court judges.

[JFO received 12/04/08]

JFO #2356 — \$333,002 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to the Judiciary – Court Administrator's Office. These grant funds will be used to fund enhancements to the treatment courts by supporting coordination, case management, and other activities. Some funding will also be used to support local efforts to explore alternatives to the criminal justice system.

[JFO received 12/04/08]

JFO #2357 — \$212,408 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to the Judiciary – Court Administrator's Office. These grant funds will be used to partially fund the Judiciary's new case management system.

[JFO received 12/04/08]

The Joint Fiscal Office has reviewed these submissions and determined that all appropriate forms bearing the necessary approvals are in order.

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802/828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us or Stephen Klein at 802/828-5769; sklein@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for Joint Fiscal Committee review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by December 18 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner Lee Suskin, Court Administrator



MEMORANDUM

To:

Representative William Lippert

From:

Nathan Lavery

Date:

December 4, 2008

Subject:

JFO #2355, #2356, #2357 (Judiciary grants)

Representatives Michael Obuchowski and Shap Smith asked that I forward to you a copy of the enclosed requests and cover memo. They are requesting you provide them with your observations regarding the enclosed items.

cc: Rep. Michael Obuchowski Rep. Shap Smith Stephen Klein PHONE: (802) 828-2295

FAX: (802) 828-2483



State of Vermont

Department of Finance & Management 109 State Street, Pavilion Building Montpelier, VT 05620-0401 Agency of Administration

[phone] 802-828-2376 [fax] 802-828-2428

	FII	NANCE			F VERMON ENT GRANT	NT REVIEW FOR	LM	
Grant Summary:				rant partial	ly funds the Jud	liciary's new case	management system.	
Date:			11/18/2	2008				
Department:	. =		Judicia	ry- Office	of the Court Ac	lministrator		
Legal Title of Gra	Vermo	nt VCase I	Project					
Federal Catalog #	•		16.580					
Grant/Donor Name and Address:				U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 7 th St. NW, Washington, DC 20531				
Grant Period: From:			7/1/200	2008 To: 12/31/2010				
Grant/Donation			\$212,408					
Grant Amount:	\$54,			FY 2 4,148	SFY 3 \$14,130	Total \$212,408	Comments	
Position Informat		# Posi		Explanati	on/Comments no new position			
Additional Comm	ents:				was for \$212,40		t request to the Dept. of actual award is for \$8 more	
Department of Fina	ance & Ma	ınageme	nt			A mores	(Initial)	
Secretary of Admir	nistration					APM 11/20/08	(Initial)	
Sent To Joint Fisca	l Office						Date	

RECEIVED

DEC 04 2008

JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION Judiciary 1. Agency: Court Administrator's Office / Research and Information Services 2. Department: 3. Program: VT Judiciary Case Management System & ElectronicFiling Project (VCase) Vermont VCase Project 4. Legal Title of Grant: 5. Federal Catalog #: 16.580 6. Grant/Donor Name and Address: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 7th St. NW, Washington, DC 20531 7. Grant Period: From: 7/1/2008 To: 12/31/2010 8. Purpose of Grant: The purpose of the grant is to partially fund the new case management system in order to give the Judiciary the tools necessary to support an increase in the quality of service to litigants and users of court services, to provide timely and cost-saving efficience is to the staff, and to provide judges, administrators and other decision-makers with information to better manage the business of the Judiciary. 9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted: Not accepting this grant would delay and impair the ability of the Judiciary to fund the new case management system, the current system is archaic. Data collection, data sharing and using data for reports and evaluation challenging at best. 10. BUDGET INFORMATION SFY 1 SFY 2 SFY 3 **Comments Expenditures:** FY 2009 FY 2010 FY 2011 Personal Services \$4130 \$4148 \$4130 \$50000 \$10000 **Operating Expenses** \$140000 Grants \$ \$ \$ **Total** \$54,130 \$144,148 \$14,130 **Revenues:** \$ \$ \$ State Funds: \$ \$ \$ Cash In-Kind \$ \$ \$ Federal Funds: \$ (Direct Costs) \$54130 \$144148 \$14130 (Statewide Indirect) \$ \$ \$ (Departmental Indirect) \$ \$ \$ Other Funds: \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ Grant (source Total \$54,130 \$144,148 \$14,130 **Appropriation No:** \$212408 Amount: \$ \$ \$

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(Form AA-1)

STATE OF V	ERMONT REQU	JEST FOR GRANT AC	CCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)	
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			\$	
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Total Po	ositions			
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☐ Information to JFO	(Secretary's signature	or designee)	Date:	
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Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance

AWARD CONTINUATION SHEET

Grant

PAGE 2 OF 2

PROJECT NUMBER

2008-DD-BX-0185

AWARD DATE

09/08/2008

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 1. The recipient agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Financial Guide.
- 2. The recipient acknowledges that failure to submit an acceptable Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (if recipient is required to submit one pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 42.302), that is approved by the Office for Civil Rights, is a violation of its Certified Assurances and may result in suspension or termination of funding, until such time as the recipient is in compliance.
- The recipient agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, as further described in the current edition of the OJP Financial Guide, Chapter 19.
- 4. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of OJP.
- 5. All contracts under this award should be competitively awarded unless circumstances preclude competition. When a contract amount exceeds \$100,000 and there has been no competition for the award, the recipient must comply with rules governing sole source procurement found in the current edition of the OJP Financial Guide.

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

LEE SUSKIN, ESQ. Court Administrator lee.suskin@state vt.us

Mailing Address: 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609-0701

Telephone: FAX: TDD: (802) 828-3278 (802) 828-3457 (802) 828-3234



www.vermontjudiciary.org

PATRICIA GABEL, ESQ., DIRECTOR Court Improvement & Innovation patricia gabel a state.vt. us

ROBERT GREEMORE, DIRECTOR Administrative Services bob.greemore@state.vt.us

> RENNY PERRY, DIRECTOR Trial Court Operations renny, perry a state.vt.us

ROBERT YERGEAU, DIRECTOR Research & Information Services robert yergeau a state vt. us

October 29, 2008

Flora D. Lawson State Policy Advisor, ME, NH, VT U.S. Department of Justice 810 7th Street NW Washington, DC 20531

Re:

Grant 2008-F3795-VT-DD

Award 2008-DD-BX-0185

Dear Ms. Lawson:

Please be advised that the authorized representative on the above referenced grant should be changed:

From:

James Douglas, Governor, former authorized representative

To:

Lee Suskin, Court Administrator, current authorized representative

For the following reason:

The grant was awarded to the Vermont Judicial Branch of Government, where the Court Administrator would be the appropriate authorized representative. The Governor is the authorized representative for the Executive Branch.

Sincerely,

Lee Suskin

Court Administrator



all active

.gr Requested





US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

	Grantee Information						
Grantee Name:	Vermont Office of the Governor	Project Period:	07/01/2008 - 12/31/2010	GAN Number:	001		
Grantee Address:	109 State Street Montpelier, 05602	Program Office:	ВЈА	Date:	10/29/2008		
Grantee DUNS Number:	36-070-5925	Grant Manager:	Flora Lawson				
Grantee EIN:	03-6000264	Application Number (s):	2008-F3795-VT-DD				
Vendor #:	036000264	Award Number:	2008-DD-BX-0185				
Project Title:	Vermont VCase Project	Award Amount:	\$212,408.00				

Help/Frequently Asked Questions

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	rrent Authorized				Authorized Signing Office	
				Prefix	Mr.	
Prefix	Governor			Prefix (Other)		
Prefix (Other)				First Name	Lee	
First Name	Jim			Middle Initial		
Middle Initial					<u> </u>	
Last Name	Douglas			*Last Name	Suskin	
Suffix	Ī			Suffix		
Suffix (Other)				Suffix (Other)		
Title	Governor			Title	Court Administrator	
Address Line 1	109 State Street			Address Line 1	109 State St	
Address Line 2				Address Line 2		
City	Montpelier			*City	Montpelier	
State	Vermont			State	Vermont	
Zip	05609 - 0001			Zip	05609 - 0001	
Phone	(802) 828-3333	Ext				
Fax	(802) 828-3339			Phone	(802) 828-3278 Ext	
Email	jim.douglas@stal	te.vt.us		Fax	(802) 828-3457	
				Email	lee.suskin@state.vt.us	
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SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

LEE SUSKIN, ESQ. Court Administrator lee.suskin@state.vt.us

Mailing Address:

109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609-0701

Telephone: (802) 828-3278 **FAX:** (802) 828-3457 **TDD:** (802) 828-3234

ROBERT GREEMORE

Director - Administrative Services bob.greemore@state.vt.us

PATRICIA GABEL, Esq. irector - Court Improvement & Inno

Director - Court Improvement & Innovation patricia.gabel@state.vt.us

ROBERT YERGEAU

Director - Research & Info. Services robert.yergeau@state.vt.us

www.vermontjudiciary.org

November 12, 2008.

Flora D. Lawson State Policy Advisor, ME, NH, VT U.S. Department of Justice 810 7th Street NW Washington, DC 20531

Re: Award 2008-DD-BX-0185 Award 2008-DD-BX-0618

Dear Ms. Lawson,

Please be advised that the name of the grantee in the above referenced grants should be changed:

From:

Office of the Governor

To:

Office of the Court Administrator

For the following reason:

The grant was awarded to the Vermont Office of the Court Administrator which is the Judicial Branch of Government. The Office of the Governor is the Executive Branch. Lee Suskin, Court Administrator, is the correct authorized representative for both grants.

Sincerety,

Lee Suskin

Court Administrator









US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

·	Grantee Information	
Grantee Name:	Vermont Office of the Governor	
Grantee Address:	109 STATE ST. MONTPELIER, 05602	•
Grantee DUNS Number:	36-070-5925	Award Numbers:
Grantee EIN:	03-6000264	2008-DD-BX-0618 2008-DD-BX-0185
Vendor #:	036000264	

Help/Frequently Asked Questions

Denied Draft

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ATTACHMENT 1

Program Narrative - Abstract

The Judiciary is set to launch a critically important effort to bring the Courts' information technology systems forward into the 21st century. This effort is called the Vermont Judiciary Case Management System and Electronic Filing Project ("VCase").

The purpose of the new case management system is to provide the Judiciary with the tools necessary to support an increase in the quality of service to litigants and users of court services, to provide time and cost-saving efficiencies to the staff, and to provide judges, administrators and other decision makers with information to better manage the business of the Judiciary. The future case management system will allow litigants to file court documents electronically, with particular focus on creating on-site access for victims of domestic violence.

Placing equipment in the courthouses, developing the electronic forms, and creating the electronic interfaces between the Judiciary and the law enforcement community are substantial undertakings. Funding to develop the system described will be instrumental in helping the Judiciary provide better service and safety to victims of domestic violence and accountability for offenders. This funding will support a JIEM/Gap analysis to identify the necessary elements design the system and get it ready to "go live". The initial focus will be the criminal domestic violence cases in the District Court, the civil domestic abuse protection order cases in the Family Court and the civil stalking and sexual assault protection order cases in the Superior Court.

The new system is expected to provide faster turn-around for inquiries and requested services, electronic filing of case information, easier access to documents, increased accuracy of information, improved data exchanges with state agencies, improved public access to appropriate information, increased security, and improved services to children and families.

Program Narrative - Statement of the Problem

Overview of the Vermont Court System: The Vermont Judiciary is composed of seven jurisdictions: Supreme, Superior, District, Family, Judicial Bureau, Probate, and Environmental. The State of Vermont Judiciary, referenced in this document as the Judiciary, is organized as follows:

- Vermont has 1 appellate court, the Supreme Court, which has 1 clerk's office.
- Vermont has 6 types of trial courts: (1) district court; (2) environmental court; (3) family court; (4) judicial bureau; (5) probate court; and (6) superior court. The judicial bureau and environmental court each have 1 clerk's office. The district court, family court, and superior court each have 14 clerk's offices, which are located in Vermont's 14 counties. The probate court has 18 clerk's offices.
- Vermont has 31 courthouses. Each courthouse contains at least 1 clerk's office, but
 may include as many as 4 clerk's offices (district court, family court, probate court,
 and superior court).
- Vermont has approximately 90 judicial officers: 1 chief justice, 4 associate justices,
 15 superior court judges, 17 district court judges, 2 environmental court judges, 6
 family magistrates, 2 judicial bureau hearing officers, 18 probate judges, and 28
 assistant judges. Many of these judicial officers work in multiple courts and counties.
- Vermont has 53 court managers: Each court manager is responsible for at least 1 clerk's office, but may be responsible for as many as 4 clerk's offices co-located within a courthouse (district court, family court, probate court, and superior court).
 Court managers include "court managers", "superior court clerks", and "probate court registers". The state court administrator's office has direct supervision of the court

managers for the district court, environmental court, family court, judicial bureau, and supreme court. Elected assistant judges supervise the superior court clerks. Elected probate judges supervise the probate court registers.

- Vermont has approximately 250 court staff members working in various courts. Court staff members tend to have duties parallel to their respective court manager.
- Vermont has a centralized court administrator's office with approximately 35 administrative staff members. This includes the Court Improvement and Innovation Division (which includes training), the Administrative Division (which includes the finance department), and the Research and Information Services ("RISD") division which is responsible for all LAN/WAN/Helpdesk/Web/ and programming services for the Judiciary.

Current state of the Judiciary's case management system: The state of Vermont Judiciary's case management systems are all based on the original text-based Vermont Automated Docketing System (VTADS). VTADS was built originally by Relational Semantics, and has been maintained and enhanced by the Judiciary's Research & Information Services Division (RISD) since 1990. VTADS worked well but its decentralized configuration does not allow for viewing data on a statewide basis and does not easily provide court statistics, management reports and meet data requests from other state agencies. VTADS began as a system to support criminal dockets. Over time it was expanded, copied and sometimes modified to handle virtually all docket types used in the Judiciary today. The VTADS structure in the courts is as follows:

- Vermont has 14 counties. Each county has its own copy of the VTADS database, actually called VTADS2 (it is an upgraded version from the original VTADS1). There are three basic court types in each county: a District (criminal) court (which processes domestic assault cases), a Family court (which includes the juvenile docket and processes Protective Orders), and a Superior (civil) court. Therefore, each of these three courts in a county share one "copy" of VTADS, e.g., one central entity ("person") table per county. As we move to a centralized VCase, we will have to combine these 14 entity tables, plus resolve 14 copies of code/reference tables, which have the same structure, but may have some slightly different values (even across the same court types). Notes/exceptions:
 - While the 14 District and Family courts use VTADS, only 12 of the Superior courts use
 it. Two Superior courts (Chittenden and Franklin) have their own systems.
 - Probate courts do not use VTADS. In fact, they have no formal case management system. All of their work is done via WordPerfect macros, spreadsheets, etc. Five of the 18 Probate courts use CITRIX environments; others currently have their own PCs and servers. The assumption is that when Probate courts are rolled into VCase they will move to the CITRIX system.
 - While each county has a database, each copy of the database is not physically in each county. Rather, the system is served to the users via a central CITRIX farm based in Montpelier, and therefore all VTADS servers are in Montpelier.

- Vermont is beginning to develop a Treatment Court system (drug courts, mental health courts and integrated domestic violence courts, juvenile drug courts and family treatment courts), which currently tracks its data on copies of an MS Access database, where each program location has their own database. The data volume is very small, and we will assess the new system's "program definition" capabilities to determine when/if we convert over the data from the Treatment Court database.
- There is one appellate court, the Supreme Court. It has its own server, and uses an old version of VTADS (VTADS1). This version runs on an old version of Informix and is unique to the Supreme Court.
- There is one Environmental Court with a modified version of VTADS2 specific to this court.
- There is one statewide traffic court, called the Judicial Bureau. It has a modified version of VTADS2 for processing traffic tickets (Vermont Civil Violation Complaints) and a few other document types. In addition, the Municipal Ordinance system is also housed at the Judicial Bureau, another modified version of VTADS2. Note:
 - The Judicial Bureau is the only court in the state that has scanning. Since Vermont has no e-citation program, paper tickets come to the Judicial Bureau from the police. Paper tickets are scanned into a standalone imaging system from I Mage Software, Inc. The ticket images are stored separately from the VTADS database. However, custom routines link the ticket image to the corresponding case record in VTADS, the user can press F1 from a VTADS screen and pull up the corresponding image.

 Data from the ticket image is manually entered into the case record in VTADS.

In 2000/2001, the Judiciary implemented a data warehouse to combine data specifically from the District, Family and Superior Courts to support statistic generation and data access and

sharing among the courts and state agencies. The system was built on Business Objects

WebIntelligence and Oracle 8i. A web-based application called Vermont Case Access System

(VCAS) allows end-users to search for court case information on a statewide basis. But while the data warehouse has provided improved functionality in some areas, the underlying case management system continues to limit the ability of the Judiciary to move ahead with the flexibility inherent with today's technologies.

The new VCase system will provide the Judiciary with the tools necessary to increase the quality of service to litigants and users of court services, provide time and cost-saving efficiencies to the staff, and provide judges, administrators and other decision makers with information to better manage the business of the Judiciary. The future case management system will allow litigants to file court documents electronically and will create electronic interfaces between the Judiciary and the law enforcement community enabling the transfer of orders of protection more quickly and efficiently. Funding to develop the system described will be instrumental in helping the Judiciary provide better service and safety to victims of domestic violence and accountability for offenders. The initial focus will be on Family and District Courts to support a JIEM/Gap analysis to determine the needed elements of the system and will get the court ready to go live.

Time is of the essence, since the current systems are old, do not support current business needs, cannot accept new technology in the courts (e.g., digital audio and video integration), and are increasingly labor intensive to maintain. Vermont has the need for a case management and electronic filing system with the same functionality and capabilities as systems being developed and implemented in larger states. However, small states such as Vermont do not have the same

economic base and resources needed to develop and implement such a system. We must rely on assistance from the federal government to supplement what Vermont taxpayers can afford.

Program Narrative: Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures

The Vermont Judiciary has a long term vision to transform the case managing process from a paper-driven business model to an electronic-focused business model that leverages the power of the latest technologies. The Judiciary is looking for a case management solution that is web based, contains flexible workflow and business rules definition, and security features, and is tightly integrated with electronic filing and document management capabilities. Integration with digital audio and video systems will be incorporated into the system and will be available in the future. Required is an n-tier thin-client deployment that achieves the Vermont Courts' goals of reducing complexity for users and administrators, expanding access to the Courts and improving the reliability of results. The Vermont Courts anticipate offerings of Web-based solutions that integrate with users and outside systems using modern technologies such as XML/NIEM, Microsoft Exchange for email and calendar integration, Microsoft Share Point, non-proprietary programming language and database management system, and flexible report writing features.

The Judiciary's vision is to define, code, test, document, and implement the proposed solution in all jurisdictions statewide. The first step will be a JIEM/Gap analysis and in Family and District Courts, which include Relief from Abuse/Protection Orders and the criminal dockets for domestic assault. The goals of this project are:

• Access To Justice – A high priority for the Judiciary is to improve access to the courts by litigants through improving our web capabilities, with particular attention to victims of domestic violence who may not have immediate access to a computer. This includes a combination of electronic filing, electronic forms, and document management

functionality to implement the *electronic* interchange of information between the courts and external stakeholders (e.g., certain members of the Bar, pro-se litigants, law enforcement) to the maximum extent possible.

- Improve inter-agency communication The Judiciary, the State of Vermont, and the Federal government all share the goal of improving the timeliness and effectiveness of inter-agency communication through the increased use of standards. Data "exchanges" between the new courts system and other agencies will be based on the NIEM standard. Since the current system cannot generate NIEM-standard XML interfaces, the new VCase system will provide a much more robust and flexible platform to send and receive information in the common, standard format. The electronic transfer of protective orders has been identified as a priority data exchange.
- Replace the current, aging case management system The Judiciary is at risk for failure of its main record keeping and source of information by continuing with its current case management system that is more than 18 years old. The proposed solution must allow the Judiciary to completely turn off all versions of its current case management (and related) systems without losing any of the current VTADS functionality that users require. Merely by installing a single, modern system we expect to improve the usability of the Judiciary systems in virtually every major functional area.

Objectives	Strategies	Performance Measures	Data
1.1 Improve access to the courts by citizens through improving	Contract with a Vendor to perform a JIEM/Gap Analysis in	Vendor contracted with	Documentation of JIEM/Gap Analysis
web capabilities.	Family, District and Superior Courts	JIEM/Gap Analysis performed	

	Conduct a JIEM/Gap Analysis in Family, District and Superior Courts	Case management and e-filing design completed	Design approved.
	Design the new case management and efiling systems		
1.2 Improve access to pro se litigants who are victims of domestic violence	Place public access terminals in the courthouses Develop electronic	Number of courthouses with public access terminals	Number of courthouses with public access terminals
	data entry processes (e-filing) and forms for the domestic violence dockets	Number and types of forms created and available electronically	Number and type of forms created and available electronically and those left to be created
	Create electronic interfaces between the Judiciary and Law Enforcement for protective orders (see below)	Number of courts where e-filing is available	Number of litigants using e-filing.
Goal 2: Data exchange NIEM standard	es between the new cour	t system and other agen	icies will be based on
Objective 2.1 Improve inter-agency communication	Create data exchange between the Judiciary and law enforcement	Provide faster turn- around for protection orders	Electronic exchange created.
beginning with law enforcement	with particular attention to protective orders	Improve services to victims of domestic violence	Number of protective orders transferred electronically.
Goal 3: The Judiciary capabilities.	operates a new compre	hensive case manageme	nt system with e-filing
Objective 3.1: Replace the current aging case management system	Install infrastructure and encourage paperless case files.	Electronic filing of case information Easier access to	Number of electronic forms created for Family, District and Superior Courts
and improve the usability of the	Create electronic filing and electronic	documents,	Family, District and

management the staff, and to Number of Family, functionality is ready provide judges, District and Superior	judiciary system in every major functional area	functionality is ready to go live in Family, District and Superior	provide judges, administrators and other decision makers with timely	District and Superior Courts with document management functionality/ number
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The Vermont Judiciary intends to replace its outdated, not-supported 1980's vintage case management system with a new system that will transform how the court does business internally, how it does business with the rest of state government, and how it does business with litigants, with the Bar, and with the public. The new system will add electronic filing and data sharing and will include electronic document management and workflow tools. The funding will be used to develop and implement data exchange protocols within the criminal and juvenile justice systems and with other state agencies. It will be used to develop new methods to make it easier for self-represented litigants unfamiliar with legal terminology to file their cases with the court. It will be used to train court staff throughout the state on how to use the new system efficiently and effectively.

The system will be the first in the nation to accept electronic filings from pro se litigants through an advanced user-friendly interface that enables getting the litigant's case properly before the court. It will also help Vermont to implement federal legislation, including federal law related to helping children in foster care to achieve permanency in a timely manner, to protect victims of domestic abuse, to assist custodial parents to obtain child support, to keep convicted

felons from purchasing firearms, and to ensure that law enforcement has timely and accurate information on people convicted of crime.

The system will incorporate national standards on data transfer and will be a model on how the courts can communicate and exchange data with state agencies. The system will assist Vermont litigants by making it easier for them to effectively file their cases and pleadings, to make it possible to more effectively represent themselves, and by providing greater access to case information via the internet. However, not all litigants have the necessary computer and internet access to do so. This may be especially true where the litigant is a person forced out of a home due to domestic violence. The Judiciary will equip each courthouse with a public terminal where litigants may have access to the convenience of preparing and filing documents online. In addition, the Judiciary will develop an electronic summons and complaint form. The form will be easy to use — using a question and answer format (e.g. the TurboTax model), which would allow people without attorneys to file with minimal assistance. The Judiciary will develop a method for electronically routing a request for a protection order to a judge for a prompt decision. And once that decision is made, the resulting court order will be routed to law enforcement agencies for prompt implementation.

For Vermont criminal justice and other state agencies, it will reduce data entry and redundancy of records and will accelerate data exchange.

VCase will also help save taxpayer dollars by reducing paper flow and paper storage, increase staff efficiency through the use of a modern web-based architecture, and allow the integration of modern technology into the courts in both the near and long terms.

Project Design

What is a case management system?: A high-quality case management system is the cornerstone of a court's effectiveness in managing caseload. A good system usually takes years to develop and refine, and courts receive a high return on their investment. Case management systems combine docketing or event processing, calendaring, scheduling, noticing, statistical and managerial reporting, and the financial aspect of a case into one process by eliminating repetitive procedures. When courts first automated, systems were proprietary with little or no integration capabilities with other courts, or with other related agencies, such as law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, corrections, social agencies, and probation. Courts are now very aware of the importance of systems being able to "talk" to each other via a modern case management system. As technology moves forward, the court case management systems will be fed directly from law enforcement systems or attorneys' offices or other Web-based facilities, while access to court records will be immediately available via the Internet.

What is e-filing?: In our VCase project, we define electronic filing ("e-filing") broadly as the ability of the court to remove as much paper as possible from case information. The VCase project goal is a "paperless case file" capability for all courts. The paperless case file will enable litigants, the Bar, law enforcement, other State agencies and potentially other participants in a court case to use the Internet to file case data and pleadings with the court through electronic data interchange files and electronic web-based forms. In addition, the VCase system will have an integrated document management system that will allow, where required, the scanning/imaging of paper-based information that cannot come into the system via a file or electronic form. VCase will enable court staff to review the electronic information before deciding whether or not to accept the data. Fees can be collected when the case data is

submitted. The information contained in electronically filed pleadings will populate the court case management system database.

What is the VCase Project?: VCase will transform the case managing process from a paper-driven business model to an electronic-focused business model that leverages the power of the latest technologies. The case management "software package based" solution will tightly integrate with an electronic filing solution, with an imaging and document management system, and with digital audio and video systems. The VCase project will achieve the Vermont Courts' goals of reducing complexity for users and administrators, expanding access to the Courts and improving the reliability of results. VCase will integrate with users and outside systems using modern technology (e.g., GJXDM or NIEM, Microsoft Exchange for both email and calendar integration, Microsoft Share Point, non-proprietary programming language and database management system, "n-tier" system architecture design).

The VCase project will be implemented on two simultaneous "tracks": (a) the "CMS Track" will be deliver the analysis, design, conversion, training, and implementation tasks necessary to install a new case management system software package (and turn off the current systems); and, (b) the "Paperless Track" will explore, develop, train, and implement the more advanced electronic filing interfaces with system stakeholders. Both Tracks will start at the beginning of the project; the CMS Track will take about three years while the Paperless Track will take about five years.

Integration with Law Enforcement and other State Agencies: The new VCase technology is essential to supporting the goals of the Vermont Justice Information Sharing ("VJISS") initiative. Without a new system that supports popular electronic information transfer standards, such as

Global Justice XML, the Judiciary cannot participate in information sharing with other agencies that, in today's world, is both necessary and expected.

The vision for information sharing within the Vermont justice community is to provide accurate, timely and complete information to the right person, at the right time, or the right purpose. The mission of VJISS is to develop a system that will electronically query, push, pull, subscribe or publish information between the courts, law enforcement, state's attorneys, corrections, the office of the defender general and other justice agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. The goal of VJISS, with the integration of VCase and other state systems, is to create the infrastructure to allow the electronic transfer of crime data in real time, and support the incident related information necessary for the increased protection of the citizens and travelers within Vermont. The VJISS and VCase initiatives combine to enhance justice system efficiencies and provide cost savings to Vermont citizens.

Why the focus on domestic violence? The victims of domestic violence are some of our most vulnerable citizens. Many women and children are still at risk after leaving abusive households. It is critically important that the Relief from Abuse or stalking requests and subsequent Protective Orders be processed in a timely and efficient manner. Law enforcement officers will have immediate access to existing orders of protection through the new case management system increasing enforcement of the orders, increasing victims' safety and holding offenders accountable. Not all litigants will have the necessary computer and internet access to file electronically. This may be especially true where the litigant is a person forced out of a home due to domestic violence. Because of this each courthouse will be equipped with a public terminal where litigants may have access to the convenience of preparing and filing documents online. The form will be easy to use allowing people without attorneys to file with minimal

assistance. The Judiciary will develop a method for electronically routing a request for a protection order to a judge for a prompt decision. And once that decision is made, the resulting court order should be routed to law enforcement agencies for prompt implementation.

The Vermont Judiciary will contract with a vendor to conduct a JIEM/gap analysis and a design for implementation. The District, Family and Superior Court systems will be the first systems to have the JIEM/Gap analysis completed and will include the relief from abuse docket in Family Court, the domestic abuse dockets in District Court and stalking and sexual assault protective orders in Superior Court. An A2J Script will also be developed for the domestic violence docket. It is anticipated that this will take approximately 6 - 12 months to accomplish after signing the contract. Once the JIEM/Gap analysis and design are completed, a District and Family Court will be selected to "go live". Staff training will be conducted and the kinks will be worked out of VCase. It is anticipated that implementation will take approximately 12 - 18 months. The following is the anticipated schedule for the request for proposal for the case management system of which this proposal is a part:

RFP Published	June 12, 2008
Initial Questions on RFP document due	
Intent To Bid Notification due	
Judiciary replies to Initial Questions	July 2?
Bidder's Conference (Mandatory)	July 9, 2008
Proposal Due	Friday, September 5, 2pm
Notification letters sent to Finalists chosen for	Late Sept
Vendor Presentations	
Vendor Presentation timeframe	October
State site visit	Early Nov
Best-And-Final Changes due to the Judiciary	November
(Optional: based on final questions and	
demonstrations)	
Winning Firm Selection Notification	December 5, 2008
Pre-Award Trial period	Jan – March, 2009
State Independent Review of Project	Feb – April, 2009
Contract Negotiation Period	Feb – June, 2009
Contract Signed	June, 2009?
Estimated Start work date	July 1, 2009 (FY 2010)
Estimated Project Completion	36 months from the date the contract is signed.

Organizational Capacity

The Vermont Judiciary has been in the process of exploring the development of a new case management system for quite some time. During this time, the available case management systems have improved dramatically as have the knowledge and skills of the members of the Judiciary conducting this exploration.

In 2004, the Legislature appropriated \$60,000 to the Judiciary to study the need for a new automated case management system. The study found that a new system would allow the Judiciary to enable citizens online access to services, tailor production of accounting information to meet reporting requirements, allow litigants to electronically file cases or pay obligations, enable the courts to electronically store documents and ensure proper support for upgrades and maintenance. The 2004 study, "Vermont Judiciary Case Management System – Technology Feasibility Assessment and Solution Evaluation Report" was performed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The NCSC is dedicated to assisting state courts' automation efforts.

The 2004 NCSC study evaluated five options to upgrade the capabilities of the current Courts systems:

- <u>Continue</u> to maintain the current case management systems (known as "VTADS");
- <u>Develop a new, custom</u> case management system in-house;
- Enhance and integrate the current VTADS systems by using more modern tools (e.g., use a tool to replace the current character-based screens with new GUI screens);
- Expand the current data warehouse; and,
 - Migrate to a new "off-the-shelf" case management system software package.

 The 2004 study evaluated each option, including the functional pros and cons of each solution as well as the estimated cost comparison for each option. *The NCSC recommendation was:*Migrate to a new case management system software package.

Those documents were used as a basis for publishing a Request for Information (RFI) in 2005. The RFI was used to gauge the state of the market and potential success of replacing VTADS. Using the information gathered from the responses to the RFI and several other sources (e.g., CTC-10, calls to other states to learn about their CMS projects, informal discussions with several members of the CMS vendor community, consulting with the NCSC), the Judiciary has embarked on the process of not just replacing VTADS, but implementation of a state-of-the-art courts management system, we call a "CMS framework", to include case management, document management, and e-filing.

The Department of Information and Innovation collaborated with Judiciary to review the results. While the market for commercial judicial case management system packages is small, approximately eleven vendors replied to the RFI with information on how the system could be accomplished and cost estimates.

During the 2006 Legislative session the Judiciary was given \$400,000 as the first of four or five annual appropriations necessary to establish the VCase project. The Judiciary also received \$65,000 for a full-time Project Manager. The VCase Project Manager was hired in late 2006. (See attached resume).

In mid-2006, the Judiciary again hired the National Center for State Courts to assist with completing a "user requirements" list and helping to write an RFP for the new system. Among the user requirements meetings were three days of meetings with the many external state stakeholders in a new Judicial system, including Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Dept. of Corrections, Dept. of Finance, Office of Children and Families, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, Defender General, Secretary of State, and others.

Based on many stakeholder meetings, and input from the NCSC, the Department of Information and Innovation, and the Purchasing Division, the VCase Request for Proposals Document ("RFP") was completed and published in January, 2007. However, due to several market factors, the Judiciary did not receive satisfactory bids on this RFP, so in June, 2007, this first RFP was recalled.

Since June, 2007, the Judiciary has taken the lessons learned from the first RFP effort as a guide to refining the VCase project requirements and rewriting and enhancing all parts of the prior RFP to make it more concise. In addition, the Judiciary staff has been doing further research into the CMS marketplace, talking with major vendors in the field to "market" our project to them, sending a team to the Court Technology Conference, and working with the National Center for State Courts on a new RFP which is due to be published in June, 2008. In the last two years, the Judiciary has learned a great deal about what it takes, from all concerned, to set in place a solid project foundation with a governance structure that will lead to

project successes for all parties. We intend that this current RFP, while requiring a similar scope to the last one, will facilitate more focused and less risky bids in a number of areas.

The status of the VCase project as of May 2008 is:

- <u>Funding:</u> The Vermont Legislature has established an Information Technology Special Fund that is expected to accumulate \$4 million over 5 years.
- Project Management: The Judiciary has hired an experienced, full-time IT Project
 Manager dedicated to the VCase project. Additional staffing will be assigned to the project as required.
- <u>Project Consulting:</u> The Judiciary is working with the Enterprise Project Management Office in the Department of Information and Innovation. In addition, the Judiciary continues to work with the National Center for State Courts for expert consulting assistance in the area of judiciary case management systems.
- Reworking the RFP: The Judiciary has several analysis teams reworking all major areas of the prior RFP to make it more concise, thereby enhancing the ability of the major vendors in the "courts CMS" marketplace to provide high-quality bids.
- <u>VCase RFP will be posted in June, 2008:</u> We expect to sign a contract by the end of the calendar year 2008.

Objectives	Strategies	Date	Person(s) Responsible
1.1 Improve access to the courts by citizens	JIEM/Gap Analysis Consultation	Oct 08 - April 09	Rick Conklin, Rob Yergeau
through improving web capabilities.	Vendor presentations	October 2008	
	Winning firm selection notification	December 2008	
	Pre-award trial period	Jan 09 - March 09	
	Contract negotiation period to perform a JIEM/Gap Analysis in Family, District and Superior Courts	April 09 - June 09	Rick Conklin & Rob Yergeau
	Contract signed	June 2009	Vendor, RISD
	Conduct a JIEM/Gap Analysis in Family, District and Superior Courts	July 09 - Dec 09	Vendor, Rick Conklin and Rob Yergeau
	Design the new case management and e- filing systems	July 09 - Dec 09	Vendor, Rick Conklin and Rob Yergeau
1.2 Improve access to pro se litigants who are victims of	Develop electronic data entry processes (e-filing)	Jan 10 - April 10	Vendor
domestic violence	Develop forms for the domestic violence dockets	Jan 10 - June 10	Sheila Lowe and Sandra Seidel / Dept of Trial Court Operations
	Identify and purchase hardware	July 10 - Oct 10	Rick Conklin and Rob Yergeau
	Place public access terminals in the courthouses	Oct 10 - Dec 10	RISD, Court Staff

	Create electronic interfaces between the	June 10 - Dec 10	Vendor, RISD & Law Enforcement	
	Judiciary and Law		·	
	Enforcement for			
	protective orders	·		
_	es between the new cour	t system and other age	ncies will be based on	
NIEM standard	T A 40 040	TD: 1:	D ()	
Objectives	Activities	Timeline	Person(s) Responsible	
2.1 Improve inter-	Work with law	June 10 - Sept 10	Rick Conklin, Rob	
agency	enforcement to develop	- ·	Yergeau & Vendor	
communication	data exchange			
beginning with law	Create data exchange	Sept 10 - Dec 10	Vendor	
enforcement	between the Judiciary	_		
	and law enforcement			
	with particular			
	attention to protective			
	orders			
Goal 3: The Judiciary capabilities.	operates a new compre	hensive case managem	ent system with e-filing	
Objectives	Activities	Timeline	Person(s)	
.			Responsible	
3.1: Replace the	Develop the process	January 10 - June 10	Vendor, Rick Conklin	
current aging case	and determine the		& Rob Yergeau	
management system	readiness of the courts			
and improve the	for rolling out VCase			
usability of the				
judiciary system in Install infrastructure		1st set of courts.	Venfor, Rick Conklin	
every major	and begin electronic	June 10 - Sept 10	& Rob Yergeau	
functional area	filing of case	2nd set of courts.		
	information in the	Sept 10 - Dec.10		
	first set of courts.	3rd set of courts.		
	Repeat as necessary.	Dec.10 - April 10		
		and so on.		

BJA-2008 -Byrne Grant Congressional Earmark Vermont VCase System Task/ Timeline

	Create electronic	Domestic violence	Sheila Lowe, Sandra	
		forms in all courts	-	
	forms for Family		Seidel and RISD	
	Court	will be developed by		
		June 2010.	Family Court	
İ	Create electronic		Oversight Committee	
	forms for District	Other forms will be		
	Court	developed based on	District Court	
		the determination of	Oversight Committee	
	Create electronic	readiness of the		
	forms for Superior	Family, District and	Superior Court	
	Court	Superior Courts	Oversight Committee	
	Court	Superior Courts	Oversight Committee	
	Identify training and	Training begins in	RISD, Court	
	technical assistance	June 2010 and	Managers, Vendor	
			ivialiageis, velidoi	
	needs	continues quarterly		
		until all staff are		
	Train staff	trained no later than		
·		September 2011.		
	Document	Beginning in January	RISD, Court	
	management	2010 and continues	Managers	
	functionality goes live	though September		
	in Family, District and	2011.		
	Superior Courts			
	Superior Courts			

		Endoral E	unde		
		Federal Funds 2009 2010		2011	Total
		2003	2010	2011	 Total
Α	Personnel				
	CAO Program/Grants Manager	\$4,100	\$4,130	\$4,136	\$12,400
	Total Personnel	\$4,130	\$4,130	\$4,130	 \$12,400
В	Fringe Benefits				 -
С	Travel				-
	Total Travel				
	·				
D	Equipment				
	Hardware, Software				
	Total Equipment				
E	Supplies				
	Office supplies				
	Total Supplies				
F	Consultants/Contracts				
	Gap Analysis - As-Is/To-Be Documentation; System Configuration	\$50,000	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$200,000
	Total Consultants/Contracts	\$50,000	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$200,000
Н	Other Costs				
	Total Other Costs				
	Project Subtotal				
J	Total Yearly Costs	\$54,200	\$144,200	\$14,200	
	Total 3 -Year Costs				\$212,400

While there are many more activities associated with the VCase project to enhance the Vermont Judiciary's capabilities, the focus of this grant will be completion of configuration activities for the criminal domestic violence cases in the District Court, the civil domestic abuse protection order cases in the Family Court and the civil stalking and sexual assault protection order cases in the Superior Court. This funding will support a Gap Analysis to identify the necessary configuration changes necessary in the new case management system to support those cases.

Budget Narrative

A. Personnel

CAO Program / Grants Manager

 $.70 \times $59,000/year$

\$4,130 x 3 years

Total Personnel:

\$12,400

This individual will assist with the data collection, financial reporting and ensuring adherence to the grant requirements.

F. Consultants / Contracts

The Vermont Judiciary is currently working on a Request for Proposals for the new VCase System. Distribution of the RFP will take place in mid-June. The initial work of the successful vendor will be to conduct the gap analysis, documentation and system configuration described in this grant.

Year 1: \$50,000

Year 2: \$140,000

Year 3; \$10,000

Total Consultants / Contracts:

\$200,000