

**LAR 2**  
**Yakima County Superior Court**  
**ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ODYSSEY**

1. Introduction

The current state-wide Superior Court Case Management System (SCOMIS), developed in 1977, is outdated and lacks modern capabilities necessary for efficient court function, such as calendaring, document imaging, and document management. SCOMIS has become so antiquated it is in danger of complete failure. The Washington Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Superior Courts of the State of Washington, and the Washington Association of County Clerks formed the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) in a joint effort to search for software to replace SCOMIS. The JISC has overall responsibility for the scope, schedule and budget of the project. A request for proposals was issued and, after extensive negotiations, the JISC determined that the Odyssey software offered by Tyler Technologies was the best product available to meet the needs of the Washington Superior Courts and County Clerks. Odyssey is expected to enhance the ability of Superior Courts and County Clerks to efficiently direct and monitor court case progress, schedule case events, enforce court business rules, and view and communicate case schedules and orders.

In 2013 AOC entered into a contract with Tyler Technologies and developed a plan for installing the Odyssey software at the state and county level. Neither Tyler Technologies nor AOC has the capacity to install Odyssey in all Washington counties at the same time. Lewis County was selected as the pilot county for the initial implementation of Odyssey (case management, calendaring and document management) and is currently scheduled to "go live" in June, 2015. Yakima, Franklin, and Thurston Counties will follow in November, 2015 as early adopters. The remaining counties will implement Odyssey through 2018.

On December 13, 2013 Yakima County was approved as an early adopter site for the Superior Court Case Management System (SC-CMS), which replaces SCOMIS. This early adopter status is particularly crucial for Yakima County Superior Court because it uses a calendaring system called CAPS. The CAPS program uses an obsolete computer software language, will not be supported by AOC in the event of failure, and is inefficient and prone to disruptive outages. Calendaring is an essential core function of both the Yakima County Superior Court and the Yakima County Court Clerk. Accurate judicial calendaring is critical to access to justice through effective administration and to ensure the timely scheduling of trials, both civil and criminal, and supplemental hearings as needed to allow litigants' matters to be resolved. Reliance on the CAPS calendaring software is a threat to the Court's continuing ability to operate. In the event of a CAPS failure before Odyssey is fully implemented the Superior Court

and Clerk of the Court would have a limited and unreliable ability to identify cases previously scheduled for hearing. Calendaring would have to be performed manually for cases previously scheduled and for all new cases entering the system. This manual calendaring system has an estimated extra cost of \$50,000 or more per year. Early adopter status gives Yakima County a valuable opportunity to avoid the threat to the effective administration of justice and the extra calendaring costs.

The Yakima County Superior Court, having conducted a hearing in which the Yakima County Superior Court Clerk announced her decision to implement the Odyssey case management and Odyssey document imaging and management service as an early adopter, and with the support of the Yakima County Board of County Commissioners, the Yakima County Superior Court now resolves as follows:

## 2. Order for Adoption and Implementation of Odyssey

The Yakima County Superior Court hereby adopts the Odyssey case management system as recommended by AOC, which includes the document imaging and management system, and orders its full implementation with all possible speed. The Yakima County Superior Court and the Yakima County Superior Court Clerk shall immediately participate in the early adopter program with AOC for the adoption and implementation of Odyssey. Each shall allocate sufficient resources to ensure compliance with the Odyssey Early Adopter Implementation Schedule provided by AOC and ultimately the successful implementation of Odyssey scheduled for November of 2015.

## 3. Implementation

Superior Court Judges, Superior Court Administration, the Board of County Commissioners, the County Clerk, Office of Technology Services, all of Yakima County, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and Tyler Technologies must all work diligently, collaboratively, and harmoniously to support the successful implementation of the Odyssey case management system in Yakima County by November 2015. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Resolving issues in a timely manner, utilizing open, honest and respectful communication;
- Ensuring the availability of appropriate resources as required for project related activities, e.g. conversion data review, end user training and business process reviews.
- Acknowledging and working within the decisions of the JISC Project Steering Committee, Court User Work Group (CUWG) and AOC project team regarding the implementation, configuration, and release schedule.
- Fulfilling all expectations and deadlines described in the Odyssey Early Adopter Implementation Planning Checklist, Odyssey Early Adopter Implementation