



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Information Technology Department: A Retrospective

AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Pennsylvania's Statewide Case Management Systems

The centralization of data and documents in statewide case management systems provides for sharing of court information across jurisdictions and court-related entities. The result is more consistent practices, the creation of programs and initiatives based on standardized data, and promotion of a uniform system of justice.



Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) – a comprehensive statewide case management system that serves all Magisterial District Courts, including central and night courts and the Pittsburgh Municipal Court.



Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) – provides case management, accounting and reporting functions to the criminal division of the Courts of Common Pleas, and to dependency and delinquency cases.



Pennsylvania Appellate Court Case Management System (PACMS) – a statewide case management system used by the three appellate courts – Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania was the second state in the country to automate all appellate courts on a single statewide case management system.

Pennsylvania was the first state in the country to automate any level of court on a single statewide case management system.



Court Applications



PAeDocket – A free mobile app, supported on iOS and Android platforms that provides court case information.

- The **first-of-its-kind application for state courts nationwide**, allowing the public to search and view court case information on a mobile app.



PAePay – An application that allows the public to securely pay court fines, costs and restitution entirely online.

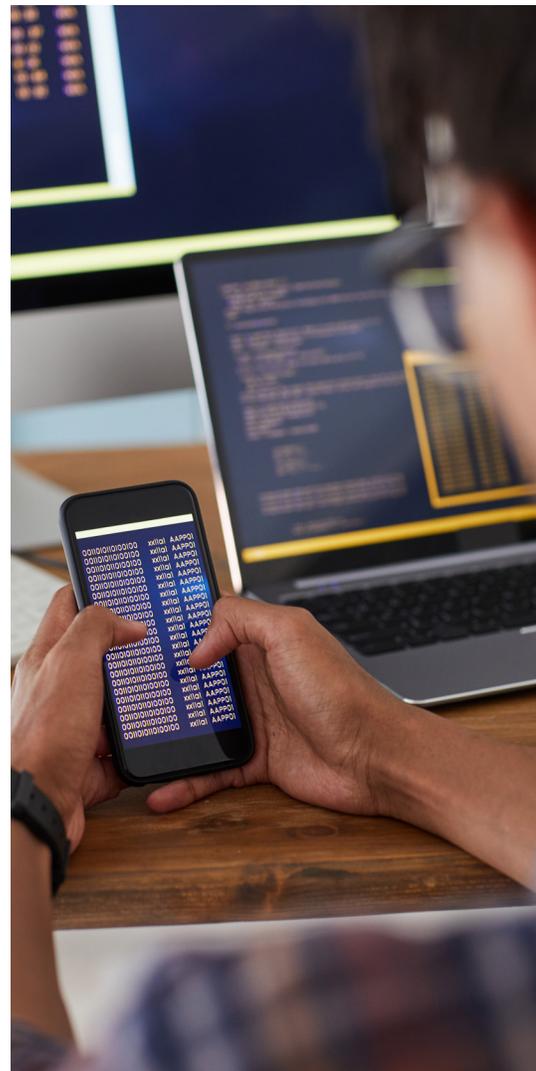


PACFile – A service that provides the option to file documents with the courts electronically on both new and existing cases.

- Integrated into the PACFile system, the **Electronic Records Management System (ERMS)** is the foundation of the document-management system implemented by the AOPC.



Administrative Support Application Program (ASAP) – provides payroll, human resources, procurement, accounting, and budgeting functions to AOPC, appellate court staff and certain Supreme Court boards and committees.



Court Websites

UJS Website – The Pennsylvania Judiciary’s website provides up-to-date information for the Unified Judicial System.

Web Portal – A component of the UJS website that provides public access to court information, and specialized web services to court users and the public.

Some of its applications and services include:

- Docket Sheets & Calendars
- Judicial Expenditures
- PAePay Bail and Secure Bail County Portal
- Attorney Registration
- Guardianship Tracking System (GTS)

Data Dashboards – provides the public with interactive views of caseload statistics and financial data from a combination of sources.

Online Bar Application (OBA) – a public-facing website through which Bar applications are submitted to the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

Bar Exam Applicant Registry (BEAR) – used by the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to accept applications and track Bar applicants.

SharePoint Content Management – houses over 50 websites supporting UJS departments, teams and projects, providing users with the ability to store and collaborate on content and tasks.

Online Services – a website that interacts with the ASAP application to provide services to UJS employees, and perform other employment-related functions.



Data Exchange

The Data Hub/Public Access team puts in place data exchanges and file publications to **support inter-agency electronic communication** and public access requests for data from AOPC’s three statewide case management systems. They also provide data to AOPC’s justice partners through JNET.

In 2019, AOPC/IT staff processed 664 such requests. Analysts review each request and work to **develop the datasets that will be provided to requesters from the public, the legislature, other government agencies and the media.** A few of these services and subscribers include:

- Bail & Civil Judgments
- Crime Victim Claim Management Services
- Guardianship Tracking System Integration (GTS)
- PA Board of Probation and Parole
- Jury Bill Candidate List
- Warrant/Criminal History Reporting Interface

Cybersecurity Measures

AOPC/IT is **continuously engaged in multiple efforts to ensure that all online court data and information is secure**, a few of which include:

- Protection of judiciary network, applications and data by implementing and maintaining layers of security controls, processes and products.
- Regular vulnerability assessments and penetration tests.
- Maintenance of two separate data centers for redundancy.

CASELOAD STATISTICS



PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS



JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES



ORPHANS' COURT CASES



CIVIL CASES



CRIMINAL CASES



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE



JUVENILE DEPENDENCY



CHILD CUSTODY AND DIVORCE

FINANCIAL DATA STATISTICS



MONEY COLLECTED FOR FEES, FINES, COSTS AND RESTITUTION



COLLECTION RATES OVER TIME



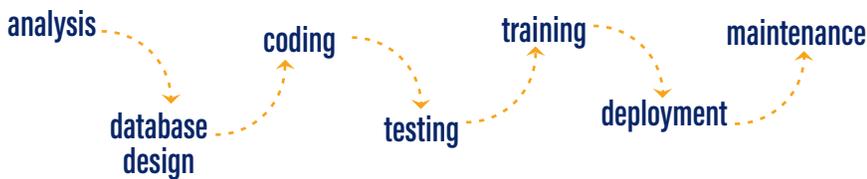
AOPC IT DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS

The primary function of AOPC/IT is to **develop and maintain statewide case management systems for Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System (UJS)**, while providing other court-related applications and technology services and support to the UJS and its 60 judicial districts.

Application Development

All AOPC case management systems currently in place have been primarily developed, deployed and maintained by in-house staff.

The Application Development teams perform all aspects of the **software development process**:



Application Design

With extensive experience in court operations, this team participates in the development of all new applications and features. Analysts regularly engage with users, development staff and management while providing day-to-day support for each application.

Network

The AOPC/IT staff has designed and supports the UJS telecommunications network. This team is also responsible for procuring circuits, managing network security and configuring all network-related equipment.

The UJS network **provides connectivity to all levels of courts in Pennsylvania.**



Operations Teams

These teams are responsible for **designing, maintaining and supporting the technology infrastructure** used to deliver all AOPC/IT services and applications to judiciary personnel and the public.



Enterprise User Services

AOPC/IT staff directly support all Supreme Court jurists and staff, several boards and committees and all AOPC staff in the use of technology.

This team is responsible for designing, maintaining and supporting a wide variety of user services including installation, relocation and support services for computers and related equipment including video conferencing.

Network Operations Center (NOC) – provides 24/7 monitoring, support and notification for over 600 court locations, 2 data centers and all AOPC-provided services.

End User Support

The User Interface group is comprised of help desks, system trainers, and documentation writers who provide support and training to thousands of court users at all levels of courts including Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth, Common Pleas, and Magisterial District courts. Additionally, the teams provide help and support to the general public, court appointed guardians, and attorneys. The following statistics are based on calendar 2019.

Annual workshops were presented for court staff and similar presentations for district judges at continuing education and regional meetings.

- 742 magisterial district judge staff attended workshops at 29 locations throughout the Commonwealth.
- 650 magisterial district judges and perspectives attended presentation at the minor judiciary continuing education school.
- 25 county court auditors received system updates from the system trainers.

ERMS/PACFile training and support is offered to counties who implement Electronic Records Management Systems (ERMS), and PACFile, eFiling of documents in the common pleas and appellate courts.

- 20 counties received customized demonstrations, training, and support for criminal, delinquency, and dependency rollouts.
- 5 counties went live and received support on eFiling original record into the appellate courts.

Extensive training documentation including workbooks, training manuals, and videos designed by course and topic are used during training sessions.

- Documents, resources, context-sensitive help and bulletins are published and inventoried in each case management system.
- The UJS Web Portal used by public users, court assigned guardians, and attorneys have self-guided help, video tutorials, and many reference documents available for assistance.



Rules of Court and Legislative Impacts

From 2016 through 2019, AOPC/IT made numerous system updates to address changes to procedural rules of court from the Appellate, Criminal, Juvenile, Orphans' and Minor Courts rules committees.

Each year, AOPC/IT reviews recommendations made by the Supreme Court's procedural rules committees or boards; and pending legislation for impacts to the AOPC-supported systems. Implementing these items are considered mandates and the top priority for the department.

ACTS

These mandates required significant updates to the case management systems:

- Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children (Act 130 of 2019)
- Overhaul of Truancy Statutes (Act 138 of 2016)
- Restitution Disbursement Schedule (Act 145 of 2018)
- DNA Expungement (Act 147 of 2018)
- Lottery Intercept (Act 40 and 44 of 2017)
- Order of Limited Access (Act 5 of 2016)
- Clean Slate (Act 56 of 2018)
- PFA/Firearm Relinquishment (Act 79 of 2018)
- Cameras in Work Zones (Act 86 of 2018)
- Child Protection (Act 92 of 2018)
- Tax Refund Intercept (Act 93 of 2016)
- Removal of License Suspension for Drug Convictions (Act 95 of 2018)



Recent Recognition

AOPC/IT staff have won awards and received accolades over the past decade and the department is seen as a leader in building technical solutions to automate and facilitate efficient court business processes.



Received the annual **National Association for Court Management (NACM) Cross-Boundary Partnerships Award** for the Clean Slate initiative in 2020.



Received the annual **NACM Court Process Innovation Award** for the Language Access Data Collection system in 2020.



Received the annual **NACM Court Process Innovation Award** for the Guardianship Tracking System in 2019.



Received the **CITOC Emerging Technologies Award** in the Court Technology category in 2019 for the PDF/A electronic document archival solution.



Received the **CITOC Court Technology Innovation Award** in 2012 for re-engineering aspects of CRM to provide customizable applications for internal court departments.



Awarded the **Computerworld Honors Laureate** in the Government area for the Case Study for CPCMS.



STATEWIDE SYSTEM STATISTICS

UJS Web Portal



74,000
attorneys
register online
annually.



25 million
web page hits
per day.

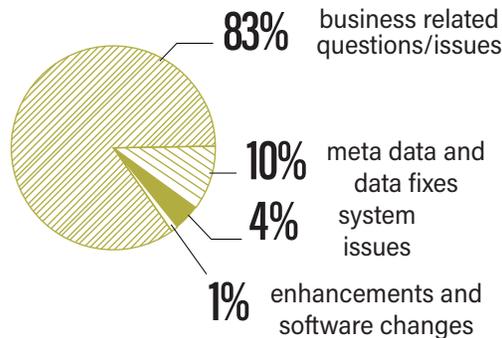
11 million
docket sheets
generated
per month on the
UJS web portal.



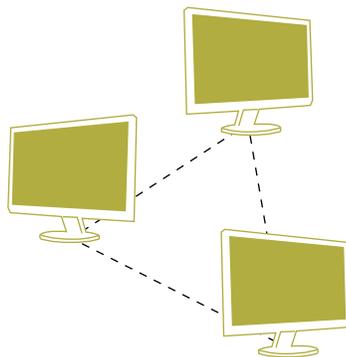
193,000
secure login UJS
web portal users.

End User Support

Over 100,000
calls recorded
each year in our help desk system.



The Network Operations
Center managed over
60,000 tickets
last year ranging from
user-reported issues to tickets
generated due to monitoring events.



Provide 24 X 7
network/status monitoring
of 60,000 interfaces, across
3,400 devices, in 630 court
locations statewide.

Court Applications



Pennsylvania courts collected over
\$480 million
in fees, fines, costs and restitution
in 2019, including a record

\$145 million
paid online through PAePay®,
more than an

11% increase ↑
over the previous year.



Over 15,000
e-filings
through PACFile
each month.

Data Hub

More than 1.1 million
traffic and
criminal e-filings
are completed every year
through the Data Hub.

76 million
case life cycle events
sent annually to justice
partners and state agencies.

1,000
interface feeds
exist with more than
300 agencies or departments
through the Data Hub. Each month,
90 data exchanges utilized by 635 state
and local agencies are completed.

STATEWIDE SYSTEM STATISTICS

Trainings



287
court administrators, judges and court staff attended basic training sessions.

362
court staff and judges participated in webinar sessions on 14 topics.



313
professional/lay guardians attended Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) training.

Case Management

Over 2.6 million cases are docketed annually.



27 million forms and reports are generated from the statewide case management systems annually.



22,000 users statewide for all case management systems.

Over
3.5 million cases processed in our case management systems annually.

50 million electronic documents stored in ERMS.



41,000 interpreter encounters are recorded in our Language Access Data Collection (LADC) system annually.

14 billion rows of data stored for all systems.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

