

From: Shaun McCrea
To: [JWMPS Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Shaun McCrea](#)
Subject: Re: Support for OJD Budget: 3:00 Hearing 3/16/17
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:07:10 PM

Joint Committee on Ways and Means SubCommittee on Public Safety
March 16, 2017

Co-chair Senator Winters, Co-Chair Representative Stark and SubCommittee members,

I am the new executive director of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Prior to October, 2016, when I started at OCDLA, I was a criminal defense lawyer in private practice, trying cases throughout the state and in federal court.

I strongly support our courts. Courts and judges are an integral part of the public safety system and need adequate funding. The ability to recruit attorneys with diverse backgrounds in practice to become judges and then retain them, is critical to the success of our justice system in Oregon. Judges with significant legal experience, who have the ability to decide complex issues before them in a timely and fair manner is the bedrock of liberty. To accomplish this, courts and judges -- like the other parts of public safety: defense and juvenile providers and law enforcement -- must be funded at an adequate and reasonable level.

I also strongly support electronic court filing and ask you to continue public defense provider access to eCourt case files and documents at no cost. As a practitioner I had access to federal court electronically for years. I longed for the day when I could file documents in state court electronically, avoiding the screaming drive to the courthouse, trying to get there before the courthouse doors closed. Oregon eCourt (while it can use tweaks and upgrades) has been fantastic, particularly for someone like me who practiced in diverse counties. I could download the charges against my client electronically, file my motions, immediately review responses filed by the prosecutor, research on line to determine the name of a lawyer representing a witness in my case, look up whether my client had Oregon prior convictions in any county, review information about those convictions on line, and more. The ability to research, analyze and file electronically saved immense time that I could devote to case preparation. For example, I no longer had to call attorneys in other counties who may have represented my current client in a prior case, begging them to pull old files out of storage and provide me documents. That information is now at my fingertips on line! I have been able to provide judges and prosecutors with documents and filings immediately instead of worrying that the U.S. Mail or fax might fail me. Because I could do everything faster, the case could proceed faster, saving valuable scarce court time. These examples hold true for public defense service providers as well. No cost access to eCourt cases and documents enables them to work faster and obtain information - to provide effective assistance of counsel to a client - more easily, because they can do it on line instead of having to drop everything to go to courthouse and look through archives or wait for documents to come by fax or mail.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun S. McCrea

Shaun S. McCrea
smccrea@ocdla.org
Shaun S. McCrea
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
[101 E. 14th Avenue Eugene, OR 97401](#)
[541-686-8716](#)
[www.ocdla.org](#)
[smccrea@ocdla.org](#)