



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Honorable Representative Marc Rhoades, Chair
Testimony in Support of HB 2117
Authorization to Set E-filing Fee
February 27, 2013

Mr. Chairman, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

The Judicial Branch is moving toward e-filing capability, to allow easier access to the court. With grant money, and a small amount of state general fund, we will bring e-filing to Leavenworth County, Sedgwick County, Douglas County, and the Appellate Court in the present fiscal year. A request for \$1.1 million is sought in FY 2014 to bring e-filing to one-half of the remaining counties, with a request for \$500,000 in the FY 2015 budget to complete the remaining counties. While the Judicial Branch seeks state general funding of this project, it is recognized that this funding may not be approved.

In the alternative of state general funding approval, we support this bill to the extent that authorization be given to set a fee on all cases in order to pay for the e-filing project. The language of the bill is the same language that was proposed during the 2012 session, which would allow a fee for all e-filed cases. If this bill goes forward, we would request modification to reflect a specific fee schedule designed to generate the money we need to continue the project if the Legislature ultimately decides not to fund the state general fund request. We can supply a recommended fee schedule the Judicial Branch has prepared at the committee's request.

Moving to electronic filing and a paper-on-demand-only court system will increase efficiency for those who file documents with the court, allowing around the clock web access without the costs of creating, mailing, or delivering a paper document. Once fully implemented, this program has the potential to save costs for law enforcement agencies, state agencies, county and district attorneys, and anyone else who files documents with Kansas courts. The court system itself will be able to function more efficiently, reducing retrieval, storage, and data entry costs. Once information is entered about a document, the information will populate other data points, the paper will be electronically routed and stored, and those involved in a court case will automatically receive relevant notifications.

I ask that you consider this bill favorably. Thank you for your time. I, Kim Fowler, Fiscal Officer, or Kelly O'Brien, Director of Information Systems, would be happy to answer questions.