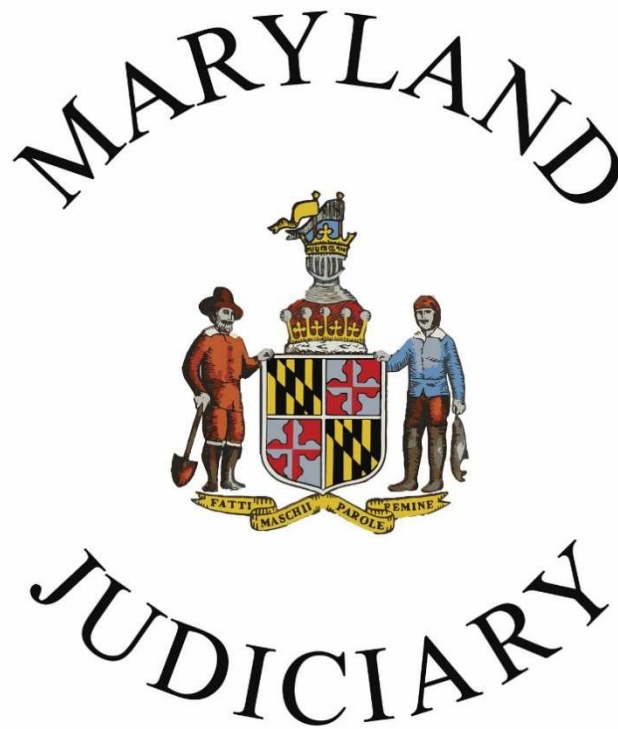


# **Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund**

**Fiscal Year 2019**



Administrative Office of the Courts

December 2019



# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER  
187 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Pamela Harris**  
State Court Administrator  
410-260-1295

December 20, 2019

Honorable Nancy J. King, Chair  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Robert A. Zirkin, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
101 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
101 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund

Dear Chairpersons:

In accordance with Chapter 556, Acts of 1995, as amended by Chapter 10, Acts of 1996, and Section 2-1246 of the State Government Article, this annual report covering Fiscal Year 2019, is submitted respectfully to account for the condition of the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund.

If the committees require further information, please direct all inquiries and questions to my attention at (410) 260-1295 or [pamela.harris@mdcourts.gov](mailto:pamela.harris@mdcourts.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Harris  
State Court Administrator

Hon. Nancy J. King  
Hon. Maggie McIntosh  
Hon. Robert A. Zirkin  
Hon. Luke Clippinger  
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Enc.

cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Honorable Laura S. Ripken, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court  
Honorable Douglas J. J. Peters, Chair, Public Safety, Transportation and Environment  
Subcommittee  
Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chair, Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee  
Honorable Charlene M. Notarcola, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Faye Gaskin, Deputy State Court Administrator  
Oversight Committee on the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund  
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant State Court Administrator, Government Relations and Public  
Affairs  
Robert Bruchalski, CIO/Assistant State Court Administrator, Judicial Information Systems  
Tammy Sitar, Director, Budget and Finance  
Matthew Bennett, Policy Analyst  
Matthew Jackson, Policy Analyst  
Jameson Lancaster, Policy Analyst  
Holly Vandegrift, Policy Analyst  
Kenneth Weaver, Budget Analyst  
Angela Miller, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management  
Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist

Twenty-eight years ago, the General Assembly enacted legislation creating the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund (the Fund) in response to the deteriorating conditions and the state of operations in the land record departments of the Clerk of the Circuit Court offices throughout the State. Through the assessment of a \$5.00 surcharge, the legislation established a non-lapsing fund. The Fund, when created in 1991, had an original sunset provision that was lifted in 1995 and was thereafter extended on three occasions. In 2003, the surcharge was increased from \$5.00 to \$20.00. In 2005, the General Assembly mandated that all General Fund expenditures related to land records operations, support, and salaries of over 256 employees would no longer be supported by the General Fund, but rather would be appropriated from the Fund. At that time, the Judiciary and the Land Records Improvement Fund Oversight Committee (LRIFOC) argued that the clerks' salaries and operational costs belonged in the General Fund. The circuit court clerks and LRIFOC remain steadfast with that argument.

Thereafter, in November 2007, during the Special Session, the General Assembly passed the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (HB 1/SB 1, Chapter 2). This Act repealed the sunset provision, made the \$20.00 surcharge permanent, and expanded the scope of the Fund to include all the Judiciary's major information technology development projects for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010.

In the 2010 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, the General Assembly removed the sunset provision for the support of the Judiciary's major information technology projects and made permanent that expenditures for all major information technology projects of the Maryland Judiciary would be paid through the Fund. Moreover, all interest on the Fund's balance was diverted to the General Fund.

In 2011, through the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, the General Assembly increased the Fund's surcharge to \$40, effective July 1, 2011. This was done to address a structural deficit and to sustain the Fund through Fiscal Year 2015 while anticipating a real estate market recovery. In 2015, the General Assembly extended the sunset provision through Fiscal Year 2020.

The LRIFOC was created in 1995 to serve as an advisory body to the State Court Administrator. The five-member committee consists of one representative each from the Maryland Land Title Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, the Maryland State Archives, the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Four years ago, the LRIFOC and the State Court Administrator agreed to move forward with the Maryland e-Recording initiative for the recordation of the land records instruments by linking local and state agencies and providing a secure web portal to move documents through county finance offices, clerks' offices, and the Maryland State Archives, as well as to assist the State Department of Assessments and Taxation with updates.

The overall purpose of the e-Recording initiative was, and continues to be, to reduce processing times; increase productivity in clerks' offices, title companies, and financial institutions; ensure security; and improve the tracking and accuracy of data, all in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. e-Recording eliminates a significant level of paper processing, travel, and in-person

filings at numerous county and State offices by automating previously time-consuming business processes. The system has improved collaboration among the various stakeholder groups as they work to effectively e-record documents.

While not mandatory, the use of the eRecording system continues to increase. In those counties where both the county finance office and the court have implemented the system, the top five – Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, and Prince George's counties – are e-recording over 40% of their documents. Several other counties are approaching that level.

As of September 2019, e-Recording was implemented in all circuit courts, and in all but a few related agencies that must approve and/or review deeds. Planning is underway to implement the system in the remaining related agencies that have agreed to participate in e-Recording by the end of this fiscal year. The chart below shows the implementation status.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>County Finance Offices</i>	<i>Towns, Cities, Municipalities</i>
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>City of Annapolis</i>
<i>Baltimore County</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Carroll</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Cecil</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>Charlestown, Chesapeake City, Cecilton</i>
<i>Harford</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>Bel Air, Havre de Grace, Aberdeen</i>
<i>Howard</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Montgomery</i>	✓		
<i>Prince George's</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Queen Anne's</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Talbot</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Washington</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Wicomico</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Worcester</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>Ocean City</i>
<i>Kent</i>	✓		
<i>Charles</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Allegany</i>	✓		
<i>Garrett</i>	✓		
<i>Caroline</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Dorchester</i>	✓		
<i>Baltimore City</i>	✓		
<i>Somerset</i>	✓		
<i>Calvert</i>	✓		
<i>St. Mary's</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>MetComm</i>
<i>Frederick</i>	✓	✓	✓ <i>City of Frederick</i>

The 2015 Joint Chairmen's Report directed the Judiciary and the Maryland State Archives (Archives) to report on the Archives' expenditure of money granted to them from the Fund, and the agreement between the Archives and the Judiciary. The submission of the report, coupled with a comprehensive review of all Judiciary grants and memorandums of understanding (MOU) resulted in a collaborative effort between the Judiciary, the Archives, and legislative leadership to identify a reasonable timeline over which funding for maintenance of mdlandrec.net, the land records public retrieval system administered by the Archives, could be adjusted. As a result, funding through the MOU between the Archives and the Judiciary remained at the historical level of \$5 million for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 and decreased to \$2 million for Fiscal Year 2018. Funding for Fiscal Year 2019 was decreased to \$1 million and to \$500,000 per year beginning Fiscal Year 2020. Under the existing MOU, the Archives transmitted land records images to the Judiciary for the last sixty years to serve as a back-up in the Clerk of Court offices across the State. The Judiciary transmitted electronic case-related index data contained within its databases to the Archives to assist in locating case files for the public for records in the Archives' possession. The Judiciary also successfully retired the Judicial Information Systems' land records mainframe as the conduit through which index data is transmitted to the Archives. The index data now is transmitted directly from the Electronic Land Records Online Imaging (ELROI) system, replacing the archaic mainframe process.

During the 2015 session, the General Assembly enacted legislation authorizing the State Court Administrator to assess a surcharge on cases filed in the appellate courts and civil cases filed in the circuit courts. The legislation also authorized the Chief Judge of the District Court to assess a surcharge on civil cases filed in that court. The surcharges are deposited into the Fund and are used to cover costs related to e-filing hosting services for the statewide case management system, system modifications to enhance electronic filing capabilities, and other expenses specific to the jurisdictional rollout of electronic filing capabilities statewide. During Fiscal Year 2019, the surcharges generated approximately \$5.7 million for the aforementioned purpose. It is projected that the surcharges will generate a comparable amount of revenue in each of the next five years.

## Current Fund Conditions

As indicated in Chart 1, the Fund’s collections fluctuated greatly between Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2019, from a low of \$15,820,528 in Fiscal Year 2011 to a high of \$38,370,016 in Fiscal Year 2013. Fund collections for Fiscal Year 2019 were \$32.4 million, which represents an 6.3 percent decrease from Fiscal Year 2018.

**CHART 1 – CIRCUIT COURT REAL PROPERTY RECORDS IMPROVEMENT FUND COLLECTIONS**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Surcharge</b>	<b>Copy Fees</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>e-File Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>
FY2005	31,007,605	2,469,471	1,046,727	-	<b>\$34,523,803</b>
FY2006	32,291,633	1,961,261	3,088,274	-	<b>\$37,341,169</b>
FY2007	28,049,949	1,132,130	3,804,311	-	<b>\$32,986,390</b>
FY2008	20,944,174	796,303	3,747,098	-	<b>\$25,487,575</b>
FY2009	16,430,433	703,286	2,624,747	-	<b>\$19,758,467</b>
FY2010*	16,033,336	488,862	-	-	<b>\$16,522,199</b>
FY2011	15,350,066	470,461	-	-	<b>\$15,820,528</b>
FY2012**	31,392,458	443,025	-	-	<b>\$31,835,483</b>
FY2013	37,979,669	390,347	-	-	<b>\$38,370,016</b>
FY2014	30,112,239	385,353	-	-	<b>\$30,497,592</b>
FY2015	28,467,020	438,502	-	-	<b>\$28,905,521</b>
FY2016***	29,846,531	492,241	-	5,428,196	<b>\$35,766,968</b>
FY2017	31,774,518	484,192	-	5,621,856	<b>\$37,880,566</b>
FY2018	28,539,762	389,945	-	5,635,540	<b>\$34,565,247</b>
FY2019	26,345,418	314,088	-	5,741,441	<b>\$32,400,947</b>

\* Per 2010 BRFA, interest was reverted to the General Fund.

\*\* Surcharge was increased from \$20 to \$40.

\*\*\* e-filing Service Fee collection began.

As delineated in Chart 2, if the surcharge does not sunset as scheduled in 2021, revenues are anticipated to generate approximately \$35 million per year from Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2025. The Fund will, however, continue an ongoing structural deficit.

Due to the lack of reliable trend data to establish a predictable direction, the Judiciary has maintained a conservative position with respect to projected revenue estimates by *using a three-year average of collections, from Fiscal Years 2017 through 2019*, to forecast future surcharge/fee revenue through Fiscal Year 2025. Again, that forecast assumes that the current surcharge is extended. The e-filing service fee estimates are based upon the actual revenue collected in Fiscal Year 2019.

**CHART 2 – FUND COLLECTIONS AND ANTICIPATED DISBURSEMENTS WITH SURCHARGE**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
	Actual	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated
<b>Revenues:</b>							
Surcharge/ Copy Fees	26,659,506	29,282,641	29,282,641	29,282,641	29,282,641	29,282,641	29,282,641
e-Filing Service Fees	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,400,947</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>
<b>Operations:</b>							
ELROI Operations/Maintenance**	2,091,163	2,932,302	1,844,600	1,845,350	2,145,100	1,845,350	1,845,350
e-Filing Operations/Maintenance	3,062,802	3,840,000	3,950,000	4,200,000	4,310,000	4,645,000	5,000,000
Archives - mdlandrec	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Circuit Court Offices**	16,884,287	17,306,395	17,739,054	18,182,531	18,637,094	19,103,021	19,580,597
Major IT Projects**	10,295,236	13,796,285	18,360,001	14,865,750	13,050,000	11,650,000	11,400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,333,488</b>	<b>38,374,982</b>	<b>42,393,655</b>	<b>39,593,631</b>	<b>38,642,194</b>	<b>37,743,371</b>	<b>38,325,947</b>
<b>Projected Structural</b>	<b>(932,541)</b>	<b>(3,350,900)</b>	<b>(7,369,573)</b>	<b>(4,569,549)</b>	<b>(3,618,112)</b>	<b>(2,719,289)</b>	<b>(3,301,865)</b>
Less prior year encumbrances Spent	1,702,555						
Less open prior year encumbrances		2,436,664					
<b>Total Fund Balance (Accrual Basis)</b>	<b>31,238,229</b>	<b>25,450,665</b>	<b>18,081,092</b>	<b>13,511,543</b>	<b>9,893,431</b>	<b>7,174,142</b>	<b>3,872,277</b>
* Assumes surcharge does not sunset as scheduled.							
**Includes FY2019 encumbrances.							

As shown in Chart 3, if the sunset provision is not lifted, the structural deficit is anticipated to continue with the Fund ceasing sustainability in Fiscal Year 2022.

**CHART 3 – FUND COLLECTIONS AND ANTICIPATED DISBURSEMENTS WITHOUT SURCHARGE**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021*	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
	Actual	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated
<b>Revenues:</b>							
Surcharge/ Copy Fees	26,659,506	29,282,641	14,641,321	14,641,321	14,641,321	14,641,321	14,641,321
e-Filing Service Fees	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441	5,741,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,400,947</b>	<b>35,024,082</b>	<b>20,382,762</b>	<b>20,382,762</b>	<b>20,382,762</b>	<b>20,382,762</b>	<b>20,382,762</b>
<b>Operations:</b>							
ELROI Operations/Maintenance**	2,091,163	2,932,302	1,844,600	1,845,350	2,145,100	1,845,350	1,845,350
e-Filing Operations/Maintenance	3,062,802	3,840,000	3,950,000	4,200,000	4,310,000	4,645,000	5,000,000
Archives - mdlandrec	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Circuit Court Offices**	16,884,287	17,306,395	17,739,054	18,182,531	18,637,094	19,103,021	19,580,597
Major IT Projects**	10,295,236	13,796,285	18,360,001	14,865,750	13,050,000	11,650,000	11,400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,333,488</b>	<b>38,374,982</b>	<b>42,393,655</b>	<b>39,593,631</b>	<b>38,642,194</b>	<b>37,743,371</b>	<b>38,325,947</b>
<b>Projected Structural</b>	<b>(932,541)</b>	<b>(3,350,900)</b>	<b>(22,010,893)</b>	<b>(19,210,869)</b>	<b>(18,259,432)</b>	<b>(17,060,609)</b>	<b>(17,943,185)</b>
Less prior year encumbrances Spent	1,702,555						
Less open prior year encumbrances		2,436,664					
<b>Total Fund Balance (Accrual Basis)</b>	<b>31,238,229</b>	<b>25,450,665</b>	<b>3,439,772</b>	<b>(15,771,097)</b>	<b>(34,030,529)</b>	<b>(51,391,138)</b>	<b>(69,334,323)</b>
* Assumes surcharge sunsets and fee is reduced from \$40 to \$20.							
**Includes FY2019 encumbrances.							

**Active and Future Projects**

Chart 4 reflects projected expenditures for all Major IT projects currently funded through the Fund, as well as future projects planned through Fiscal Year 2025. Over the next six years, total Major IT expenditures are estimated to be approximately \$83 million. A description of each project is provided below.

**CHART 4 – MAJOR IT EXPENDITURES FY 2020 – FY 2025**

<b>Major IT Projects</b>	<b>FY 2020 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2022 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2023 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2024 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2025 Estimated</b>
MDEC	7,432,203	8,835,617	1,100,000	--	--	--
Courthouse e-Readiness	3,200,000	3,308,946	1,250,000	--	--	--
Cyber Security	400,000	400,000	--	--	--	--
AIS – Attorney Information System	675,842	300,000	--	--	--	--
Case Search Rewrite Version 2.0	369,240	614,688	--	--	--	--
Infrastructure Initiative	955,000	1,450,000	1,215,000	--	--	--
Voice Over Internet Protocol – Phase 1	264,000	950,750	950,750	--	--	--
Data Repository/Analytics	500,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Mobile Information	--	500,000	2,750,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Digital Evidence	--	--	2,600,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
Enterprise Content/Records Management	--	--	2,000,000	3,000,000	2,500,000	2,000,000
Voice Over Internet Protocol – Enterprise Deployment	--	--	--	3,000,000	1,500,000	2,500,000
AIS Enhancements	--	--	250,000	750,000	750,000	1,000,000
Cashiering Upgrade	--	--	250,000	500,000	600,000	800,000
Case Notification	--	500,000	500,000	800,000	800,000	600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,796,285</b>	<b>18,360,001</b>	<b>14,865,750</b>	<b>13,050,000</b>	<b>11,650,000</b>	<b>11,400,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>						<b>\$83,122,036</b>

### **Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC)**

The MDEC initiative focuses on the operational and management processes, functional requirements, and replacement of the Judiciary's legacy case management systems to a unified court management solution. MDEC has introduced new functionality, including electronic filing, courthouse scanning, an attorney and litigant portal for data access, new business processes that include a process for examining the sufficiency of case documents filed electronically, a data entry module for use in courtrooms during proceedings, and a case information retrieval dashboard for use by the judges. The system allows documents to be filed 24/7 using the Internet and fees to be paid online. Implementation of MDEC has resulted in improved access to selected data for the public and law enforcement agencies, as well as improved interoperability for the transfer of data. Twenty-one counties have been fully implemented, with Montgomery County scheduled to go live in October 2020.

### **Courthouse eReadiness**

This initiative focuses on courthouse improvements across all Maryland jurisdictions, including implementing redundant network circuits in preparation for the replacement of the Judiciary's legacy case management systems with MDEC. Specifically, this project includes network cabling, wireless capabilities, audio-visual solutions, and telecommunication switch upgrades in the local courthouses. The project will facilitate outside cabling activities when building access is required by long haul telecommunication partners in support of redundant network circuits. In addition, audio-visual equipment is being installed in some courtrooms to create an interactive courtroom environment.

### **Cyber Security**

The cyber security project is intended to enhance the security posture of the Judiciary through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Cyber Security Strategic Plan and Roadmap. The strategic plan will include the development of a roadmap and framework that will guide JIS in the development and implementation of secure technology solutions and business practices. JIS intends to research, procure, and implement key components and technologies of the security plan. Key technologies that are being considered include data loss prevention (DLP) capabilities, and expanding the use of tools offered in the Next Generation Firewall systems.

### **Attorney Information System (AIS)**

The AIS is a comprehensive, secure database maintained by the Judiciary units that support the Court of Appeals in its role of regulating the legal profession in Maryland. AIS provides a one-stop portal to help lawyers view, update, and maintain their attorney status. Maryland Rule 19-802 requires attorneys to register with and use AIS to provide current contact information and to update that information within 30 days of any change. AIS brings together, in one comprehensive web-based system, attorney information from various entities within the Judiciary including the State Board of Law Examiners (SBLE), Court of Appeals (COA), Attorney Grievance Commission (AGC), Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland (CPF), Executive Director of Commissioners (EDOC), Commission on Judicial Disabilities (CJD), and the Administrative Office of the Courts. The system is designed to make it easier for attorneys to

comply with the multiple regulations that govern the practice of law in Maryland, centralizing the attorney-related functions of those entities into one system, and to electronically pay their annual Client Protection Fund assessments.

### **Case Search Rewrite Version 2.0**

Case Search provides electronic access to publicly-accessible case information for all Maryland Circuit and District Court case records. Case Search was introduced in 2006 to more efficiently address information requests commonly received in the trial court Clerks' offices. Secure Case Search was introduced later, and provides secure login access to detailed case information, such as case-related comments, and is available only to authorized parties (generally justice partners), based on what is permissible, pursuant to rules and statutes. Currently, the Case Search system does not provide access to case documents, does not charge a fee for access, and does not provide a facility for satisfying bulk data requests. Case Search Version 2.0 is an initiative to redesign the Case Search platform to provide the ability to restrict, or permit, access at a more granular level and to provide for greater system flexibility. This initiative will address the broader issue of remote access to electronic case records, including who has access, the types of information being accessed, and how long electronic records should remain online and available for access.

### **Infrastructure Initiative**

Modern information systems must have a current, reliable infrastructure to deliver the necessary capability and performance to support the applications, data, and customers of those information systems. Investment and periodic, recurring re-investment in the infrastructure is necessary to ensure that the performance of end-user applications is adequate, that data is backed up and recoverable, and that modern tools are implemented to manage the enterprise infrastructure. The scheduling of infrastructure improvements is dependent on the component and begins with an analysis to determine any performance gaps. Through this initiative, the various components are analyzed and a plan devised, along with associated expenditures, either to enhance or replace any identified deficiencies. Infrastructure has many components to include Data Centers and the necessary equipment to power and cool them, Wide Area Network Circuits, Network Equipment and Cable Plant Servers and their respective Operating Systems, Data Storage and backup mechanisms, and Utility Software and Applications and their related peripherals.

### **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) – Phase I**

The Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) initiative is intended to deliver voice communications by leveraging existing Internet Protocol (IP) based networks. Voice (telephone) services in the Judiciary are currently provided via multiple voice networks and configurations that are supported by multiple PBX platforms. Virtually all of these use older Public Shared Telecommunications Network (PSTN) services. A detailed inventory of these networks and PBXs was completed in 2017. Recognizing both the technology and industry influences toward VoIP, the AOC acknowledges the need to evaluate, plan and, ultimately, move to VoIP technology. The AOC desires to do so in a planned manner with full knowledge of the short and long-term ramifications to costs, network design and capacity, and ongoing staff support.

### **Data Repository/Analytics**

Data repository capabilities provide the ability to capture and consolidate data from multiple source databases to allow users to access, analyze, and report on specialized data sets to support business decisions. A repository would also provide a facility for satisfying judicial records bulk data requests, eliminating the need for individualized data compilations.

### **Mobile Information**

With the completion of the MDEC project and associated initiatives to implement an electronic court processing environment, newer and more powerful mobile computing technologies will be introduced to provide personalized remote interactions with the Maryland Judiciary. These technologies include the introduction of specific, customized mobile ‘apps’ for a participant to obtain notification of events in a case remotely, access information from related justice agencies and partners specific to an individual’s case or needs, introduce automated risk assessment tools to expedite the processing of minor infractions, and other technologies to increase remote interaction and expedite adjudication. This initiative is intended to enhance court services and improve access to justice processes and efforts.

### **Digital Evidence**

Digital evidence includes information on computers, audio files, video recordings, and digital images. Technologies including law enforcement body-worn cameras and smartphones are capturing an increasing volume of evidence. The Judiciary will be evaluating the need to receive, evaluate, and integrate digital evidence into the normal flow of court proceedings. In addition, guidelines, policies, and rules governing the submission of digital evidence and the use of electronic devices in courtrooms will be considered.

### **Enterprise Content / Records Management**

Document management systems address how documents are obtained, while records management focuses on near and long-term storage of documents. The implementation of electronic records management system capabilities will streamline document workflow processes for improving court operations and to facilitate compliance with court rules and statutes. This project will examine and assess the current records management systems and processes in place across all Judiciary locations; establish a statewide records management strategy and policies; and implement key recommendations, including records management software.

### **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) – Enterprise Deployment**

The Enterprise Deployment initiative is being approached from a strategic and tactical perspective. Phase I is an independent assessment considering operating differences between VoIP and PSTN, the infrastructure readiness of the Judiciary to deliver VoIP, and the development of short and long-term plans and costs to migrate to VoIP. Phase II will deploy VoIP for the AOC and associated Annapolis campus locations before expanding the scope

throughout the Judiciary, as appropriate. It is anticipated that as the migration to VoIP broadens, the Judiciary will take advantage of additional VoIP capabilities when appropriate and cost effective.

### **Attorney Information System (AIS) Enhancements**

With the release of Phase IV of AIS in July 2019, Maryland attorneys now follow a consolidated compliance cycle that aligns requirements for pro bono and IOLTA reporting with the fiscal year assessment payment requirements mandated by the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland. Future AIS enhancements under consideration will allow for online payments to be accepted for fees required by the Court of Appeals, integrate with the State Board of Law Examiners to display Bar documents, simplify the user login and registration experience, and store documents required for the validation of attorney status and integration with MDEC.

### **Cashiering Upgrade**

This initiative will replace the current Revenue Collection system (RCS) which is reaching its end-of-life expectancy. An evaluation of system requirements and current industry technology will allow for the incorporation of new processes and capabilities and afford the opportunity for the development of a more streamlined statewide cashiering system.

### **Case Notification**

Following a successful text notification pilot in 2019, the Judiciary will extend the capability to send text notifications about case hearings. The target audience for the pilot project was defendants in criminal cases originating in the District Court. The new project will examine the expansion to other types of cases, events, and other parties involved in the case. Using lessons learned from the pilot and recognizing the limitations of the application supporting the pilot, the new solution will address types of cases, recipients of the messages, and the policies, procedures, and processes to support the new application.