

# Automation in Pennsylvania's Courts

## What are the benefits of court automation?

Under the leadership and direction of the Supreme Court, Pennsylvania's court system has become a national leader in building statewide automation systems that over the last two decades have increased access to criminal information and improved services, efficiency and public safety while reducing costs.

The Judicial Automation Department of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts is responsible for the automation of more than 500 magisterial districts courts, 67 Common Pleas Court and the three appellate courts—Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme. Justice J. Michael Eakin is the Supreme Court's liaison justice to the Judicial Automation Department.

Since the early 1990s, the Judicial Automation Department has developed three major statewide case management systems and several other systems and Web applications that are extensions of them. One of the most widely used Web applications makes Supreme, Commonwealth and Superior courts decisions available for public review on the Unified Judicial System website at [www.pacourts.us](http://www.pacourts.us).

Another system which is heavily used by legal professionals and the public alike is the UJS Web Portal, which is accessible from the UJS website. This is where you can access docket sheets (court records) from most court cases – the most popular feature of this system. Also from this site attorneys can electronically file Supreme Court documents and anyone can check court calendars and rules.

In addition to building, updating and maintaining these systems, the Judicial Automation Department also provides automation support for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the AOPC staff. Most recently it has expanded the system used to make financial and employee compensation information available to the public.

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