

Memo

Marla S. Moore
Director



To: All users of AOC supported software
From: Marla S. Moore
CC: Judicial Council Members
Date: 3/11/2010
Re: Continuation of Support

Everyone is familiar with the fact that we are in the worst of economic times. Some of you may have heard rumors that the AOC will opt to discontinue services to the courts depending on us for case management and reporting systems. Some of these rumors result from observation of the state revenues decline and hearing that state agencies are being cut; others are fueled by cuts the AOC has taken in the past when budget cuts have been sustained; and some likely stem from vendors seeking to expand their business.

It is true that the legislature is asking us hard questions about our services and their efficacy. They are looking at ways to ensure that state funds are available for state programs and not paying for programs they feel should be the responsibility of local governments. It is also true that we are running very lean and are not always able to respond to requests for upgrades or customization. However, the Judicial Council held an emergency meeting on February 24 and expressed their concern that these services help our courts in areas that do not always have the necessary resources and that these services are appropriate for the AOC to continue. In short, we are not the Administrative Office of the *State Funded* Courts; we are the Administrative Office of *All* the Courts.

I want to assure you that I am committed to continuing to provide these services to you. We have, with your cooperation and assistance enhanced the systems to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. Some allow you to report information that is critical to the state in maintaining certain federal funds. I realize that not only do we need to keep these programs running, but also upgrade and keep them current with your needs. The functionality that filled your needs last year will not prove adequate in future years. We need your help to construct creative methods to continue this process.

The Supreme Court, Judicial Council, and AOC consider the support of the automation needs of the courts vital to our mission of providing justice to the citizens of Georgia. If the legislature makes further cuts to our staff, our priority will be to move resources to this area to ensure that you are not left in the lurch. However, it is our hope that we can serve you and your court by continuing to maintain your systems as cost effectively as possible.

Your assistance in delivering the message to your legislators that you need this critical service is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marla S. Moore".