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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ARPA FUNDS APPROVED FOR COURT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

(Little Rock, Arkansas) – Today’s approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council of 20 million dollars for the effort to build a modern court management system will allow the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to dramatically accelerate its efforts and develop a new system to replace the patchwork of legacy systems currently being used.

Over the next three years, the AOC will be leveraging multiple vendors and modern agile methodologies to develop a landmark court management system based on the principles of continuous improvement. As Arkansas courts grow and change, this new system can grow and change to better serve the people of Arkansas.

For the past two years, the AOC has been working with limited resources to build a new statewide court management solution to replace the aging legacy systems used by Arkansas’s district, circuit, and appellate courts for case management, jury management, electronic filing, online public access, and online payment processing. The case management vendor, Avenu Insights, has been unable to provide Arkansas courts with a viable modernization path. The AOC determined that the only course for Arkansas courts is to build a court management system. “No vendor will care as much about our courts as we do,” said Marty Sullivan, Arkansas State Court Administrator.

The AOC began its Court Automation Program in 2001 with initial funding from highway safety funds, and that initial funding allowed the AOC to deploy what was at the time a modern court solution. Electronic filing and online access to case management information is an integral part of providing access to the justice system for attorneys and the public. The technologies underlying the current CourtConnect systems have reached their limits.

The courts and citizens of Arkansas deserve a court system that is easier to navigate and use. Simple services such as text reminders of court dates and payment due dates are not practical through the legacy systems. With this funding AOC will be able to leverage modern tools, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to help streamline court processes and simplify participant interactions with the courts.

A year ago, the Arkansas Supreme Court requested funding for this project. Mr. Sullivan has been working closely with Governor Asa Hutchinson, Speaker of the House Matthew Shepard, Senate President Pro-Tempore Jimmy Hickey, and Senator Bart Hester; to bring all three branches of government together to support modernizing technology for Arkansas courts.

Although progress has been slow over the past two years due to limited funding, the AOC continued to lay the groundwork for the new system that would be built using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. The AOC also worked over the last year to develop plans that would be ready to execute when funding became available. According to Mr. Sullivan, “This funding will be revolutionary in our ability to improve the public’s support



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and confidence in the Arkansas Judiciary through the use of modern technology designed and built for Arkansas courts. Our expectation is that it will have a profound impact on the efficiency of the courts and result in increased public safety through better enforcement of court orders.”

For further information  
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