
MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH
Information Technology Program
22.5 FTE

Customers:

1. The Judicial Branch is responsible for providing all case management, hardware, software and technical support to:
 - a. Approximately 440 elected officials and state staff members in the Supreme Court, Water Court, Court Administrator's Office, District Courts and Youth Courts.
 - b. Approximately 600 local government officials including county staff members in the Clerks' of the District Courts' offices, and the judges and staff members in the 136 Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COLJ).
 - c. Approximately 8,000 users including private attorneys, government attorneys, court staff at all levels, court reporters, and other agency legal staff use the Judicial Branch's electronic filing system.
 - d. Approximately 80 courtrooms are supported with court reporting, audio-visual and videoconferencing equipment.

2. Executive Branch agencies (DOJ, MDT, DOC, FWP, DPHHS, DOR, OPD, etc.), local governments, and members of the public request and want access to court data in a useful and manageable manner. In addition, data exchanges are necessary and create efficiencies and reporting accuracies.

Case Management Systems:

1. C-Track – the case management system for the Supreme Court; all appellate cases are filed and maintained in this system.

2. FullCourt Enterprise – the case management system for the District Courts (56 courts) and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (136 courts). About 275,000 cases/citations are filed each year. FullCourt is the accounting and collection system for all court fees, fines and surcharges collected in Montana. Collections for surcharges, fines, fees and other court costs (reported through the Department of Revenue county collection report) average about **\$10 million** each year. FCE includes a web-based public search portal.

3. Electronic Filing - the system for filing court documents electronically without paper filings. The system is currently deployed in 81 courts and processed more than 615,000 filings on 134,000 cases in 2024.

4. CitePay – integrated to the FullCourt Enterprise case management system. CitePay allows defendants to pay court fines and fees via an online portal. CitePay is also integrated to the Court’s Electronic Filing System and allows for case filing fee payments.
5. JCATS – the case management system for juveniles coming in contact with the Youth Court. Information about youth is maintained in the system including detailed violation and sentencing information, services provided to youth, drug testing and compliance information, and information regarding the collections of restitution and fees. JCATS also has a robust reporting system, which is Montana’s only source of aggregate data about youth offenders.
6. Avenu Jury – the system is currently in planning and development. It will provide a modern web-based system to all courts for jury management. The jury process – from initial notice through empaneling and paying the jury – will be managed through the system.

Significant Projects (not including routine duties):

1. Statewide E-Filing Implementation (*largest single IT project undertaken by the Judicial Branch*)
2. FullCourt Enterprise Migration
3. Avenu Jury Statewide Implementation
4. Criminal History Records Data Exchange with DOJ - Design Phase
5. Audio-visual upgrades in District Court courtrooms