

Pinal County Completes Integrated System

By Pat Nelson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

The Pinal County Justice Integrated Systems project is a win for criminal justice information sharing in Arizona. The successful project to exchange information between the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Pinal County Attorney's Office, and the Pinal County courts has resulted in improved timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of criminal justice information among agencies in Pinal County and the central repository at the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS).

The system architecture enables information transfer from the sheriff's office to the county attorney's office. An integrated document management system allows documents to be scanned, and the images transferred electronically among participating agencies. The participating agencies effectively built upon an application that

was already in use thereby leveraging resources and providing broad-based benefits. Data exchange structures are based upon the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM). The system includes features such as automatic email notification and failed transfer alerts.

Project officials credit a combination of a strong governance and sound project management as the keys to project success. National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) funding was used to accomplish the project. Positive feedback has been received from many project participants:

Sheriff's Office Records Department

Previously, we were required to reorganize staff duties to allow for staff members to process, retrieve, and deliver packets twice daily, which amounted to as much as two or more hours each day. We no longer have the time management issue of finding coverage to meet critical deadlines.

County Attorney's Office

In addition to the improvement in efficiencies, the systems are user friendly, processing time is significantly reduced, and communication and cooperation have been greatly improved between the Sheriff's Office and the County Attorney's Office.

Information Technology Department

Recently implemented data validation processes now reduce errors and provide immediate error alerts to users. Law enforcement can now track case progress, which was not possible in the past. Documents entered through the OnBase document management system are now shareable among all agencies.

For more information about this project, contact Pat Nelson, at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

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What Is NAJIS?

The National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) is an organization of individuals responsible for the acquisition, operation and management of local, state, tribal and federal criminal justice information systems.

All practitioners in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections and allied agencies who design, improve, implement or supervise automated information systems can benefit from participating in NAJIS. Individuals who are investigating, evaluating and purchasing automated systems—both hardware and software—for criminal justice purposes are encouraged to join and participate in NAJIS activities.

NAJIS began in 1981 as the PROMIS (Prosecutors Management Information System) User Group and has grown to encompass the needs of all criminal justice agencies. The promotion of integrated criminal justice and new technologies is the focus of NAJIS.

NAJIS conducts an annual educational conference, publishes a newsletter and website with the goal of improving the criminal justice system through the practical application of technology.