



NAJIS Joins National XML Effort

By Paul Wormeli, Executive Director, IJIS Institute

Editor's Note -

Data sharing between criminal justice agencies has been a challenge for many years. Now, Integrated Justice is the new buzz word in criminal justice IT.

NAJIS has advocated for the improvement of the criminal justice system through data sharing and has made this a focal point of the annual training conference for the past five years. But, the roots of NAJIS are in prosecutor information systems.

Paul Wormeli, Executive Director of the IJIS Institute, attended the NAJIS conference last fall and asked NAJIS to participate in this national XML effort by representing the perspective and requirements of prosecutors. NAJIS members have been selected to review the Global Justice XML Data Model and to develop reference documents used by prosecutors using the GJXDM.

Six years ago, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) of the U.S. Department of Justice convened a series of focus groups around the country to discuss issues of information sharing and to identify the impediments to information system interoperability. The primary theme was that the lack of standards for exchanging information between computer systems was at the heart of the reason "stovepipe" systems continued to proliferate. As a direct result of practitioner recommendations made in these meetings, OJP undertook an initiative to improve automated information sharing in the law enforcement and justice world.

The result was the formation of the Global Information Sharing Advisory Committee. Global, as it is referred to, is a consortium of 28 organizations that represent law enforcement and justice agencies throughout the country, as well as selected Federal agencies.

Inside this issue:

NAJIS Joins National XML Effort	1
President's Message	1
NAJIS Elects New Officers and Directors	3
What is NAJIS?	3
2005 Conference Announcement	4

Based on the premise that information technology standards would have to be developed and adopted by the companies who make most of the software applications, the Attorney General urged OJP to invite input from these companies by participating in the Integrated Justice Information Systems Industry Working Group (IJIS IWG). These companies later founded the IJIS Institute, a non-profit organization designed to provide technology assistance and training in the

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

Boston Conference Another Success! Now on to San Francisco

The 2004 NAJIS Conference was a resounding success. Last year's conference was held in Boston, Massachusetts and addressed many hot topics facing justice IT professionals throughout the nation.

The NAJIS conference focuses on the technological challenges facing the criminal justice practitioner. A highlight of the conference is an open floor forum that allows attendees to raise challenging issues, and gives attendees the opportunity to identify and network with other professionals sharing common issues and con-

cerns. At the 2005 NAJIS Conference, you will be an active participant. You will be able to share your experience and learn from the experiences of others.

Mark your calendars for September 20 - 23, 2005. We are heading to San Francisco, and we have secured a fantastic venue for this conference - the Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf. What better way to become immersed in the unique beauty of the City by the Bay. This will truly be a conference to remember!



Photo courtesy of the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau

Watch for conference mailings or go to www.najis.org for more information about the conference agenda.

We'll see you in San Francisco!

Mary Young, NAJIS President

NAJIS Joins Global Justice XML Effort

(Continued from page 1)

use of advanced technologies to state and local governments through grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the OJP.

Around the time that OJP began to address the problem of data sharing, a new technology was emerging that offered significant potential for building standards and reducing the cost of interoperability between computer systems. This new technology, eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML), was seen as the basic mechanism around which law enforcement and justice agencies could automate the exchange of information between computer systems.

The effective use of XML requires the development of a vocabulary of terms and definitions that can be interpretable by any stakeholder agency in developing automated exchanges. To do this in criminal justice, Global recommended that the Attorney General create the XML Structure Task Force (XSTF). The XSTF

is primarily a practitioner driven organization, augmented by technologists from industry and academia, which has defined the content and structure of a national model called the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM).

GJXDM is complicated and OJP created yet another group called the GJXDM Training and Technology Assistance Committee (GTTAC) to aid criminal justice agencies in the use of GJXDM. GTTAC members include the Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC), the IJIS Institute, SEARCH, the National Center for State Courts, the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers, GTRI, the XSTF, NLETS, JISP, RISS.

Application to Prosecutor Information Systems

With the development of open standards and data standards as represented in the GJXDM, prosecutor agencies like all other justice organizations have the opportunity to develop automated exchanges with other justice organizations. Automatically taking data from police systems to start case files, and generating computer-based information for court case management systems will drastically reduce the amount of duplicate data entry that has long been the practice in prosecutor offices as well as in other justice agencies.

The final piece needed to make it easier to implement cost-effective information sharing throughout the nation is to prepare some baseline models that agencies can use as a starting point to implement computer based exchanges. SEARCH is developing police related transactions, the National Center for State Courts is handling the court exchanges, and the IJIS Institute has undertaken to develop the models for prosecutor originated documents.

To ensure solid practitioner input, the IJIS Institute asked NAJIS to nominate individuals who are closely familiar with the work processes in a prosecutor's office, and who could fully participate in

the project activities. NAJIS has appointed to the committee the following representatives:

Kathy M. Carpenter has worked for the Riley County Attorney in Manhattan, Kansas, since 1991 and is currently the Office Manager. She has served on the development team for the State of Kansas prosecution program and has helped to ensure that all facets were included in the program. In 2003 she joined the Kansas Prosecution Development Team and has worked to develop a product the prosecutors across the State of Kansas would find easy to use, effective and efficient. Her office has been selected as the pilot county to test the program.

John Goergen has been the Director of Technical Services for the Michigan Prosecuting Attorney's Coordinating Council since 1981. He manages the operation of a statewide prosecution case tracking system utilized by 82 offices throughout the state. Michigan has been developing an integrated criminal justice information system and has implemented links to seven courts and is working on links with police agencies. John is also an original member of NAJIS helping form the organization in the earlier 1980s.

Michaela Mathews is an Assistant District Attorney General in Nashville, Tennessee, and previously worked as a prosecutor in Memphis, Tennessee, and Trenton, New Jersey. For the last eight years she's been assigned to the CJIS project in Nashville and has been involved in the design of the system and served as a representative at CJIS meetings. CJIS is an integrated system that allows fourteen criminal justice agencies to use a single system so that data flows from the initial charge through post-conviction.

Mark Perbix works for the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice managing grant-funded IT projects. Prior to this, he worked for 15 years in the Jefferson County Colorado District Attorney's Office and was responsible for developing a comprehensive case management system. He has also worked for the Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System program and is familiar with the data sharing needs of prosecutors, courts, law

(Continued on page 3)

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 and federal criminal justice information systems.

All managers in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement 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 1984 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.

NAJIS Elects New Officers and Directors

Elections were held at the NAJIS annual meeting immediately following the conference in Boston on September 16, 2005. Our by-laws require that officers must have previously served on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates who were elected by acclamation.

Mary Young of the Clark County, Washington, Prosecuting Attorney's Office was elected President. Mary moves up from her previous position as Vice-President. Jim Parsons of the Clark County, Washington Sheriff's Office was elected Vice President and moves up from Director. Lynne Goicochea of the Ada County, Idaho Prosecuting Attorney's Office was elected Secretary and moves up from Director, and John Goergen of the Michigan Prosecuting Attorney's Coordinating Council was elected Treasurer.

Eight positions were vacant on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates, and many nominations were made from the floor. Each candidate was given

the opportunity to address the members present, and the election was conducted by written ballot. Congratulations to the following new and returning board members:

Two year terms:

Gordon Lansford
John Gill
Chad Firestone
Michaela Mathews
Laura Radke

One year terms:

Clete McAlister
Lisa Bergeron
Ella Rose Wilson

After the election, Terri Schaub, Lee County, Alabama District Attorney's Office, was elevated to the highly coveted position of Immediate Past President. Mark Perbix of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice remains on the board as Past President. Kristin Gonzenbach of Dekalb County Government and Gerald Hardt of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission continue in their second year as directors.

NAJIS Joins Global Justice XML Effort

(Continued from page 2)

enforcement, probation and corrections.

Carla Robinson is a paralegal with the Jefferson County, Wisconsin, District Attorney's Office and previously worked in law enforcement and the Clerk of Circuit Courts office. She's been selected as the Wisconsin District Attorney's representative on the Business Requirements Committee for the WIJIS Justice Gateway. Jefferson County is the WIJIS Model County and has electronic interfaces (GJXDM XML based) operational between law enforcement and the prosecutor and between the prosecutor's office and the courts.

The working committee is chaired by Scott Came, of Justice Integration, Inc., who was formerly the enterprise architect for the Administrative Office of the Courts in the State of Washington, and who has been very involved in the developing the process for creating these de-

scription of information exchanges.

The project steering committee began its work in February 2005, and hopes to complete its work by the end of the year. When this work is complete, there will be fully defined consensual standards that can be applied to ease the work of information sharing throughout the nation. However, standards can never be allowed to stagnate, and each participating organization will have to ensure that there are programs and projects to review and revise the standards or they will die from lack of use. The challenge to stakeholder organizations is to create an ongoing refreshment of all of the standards as technology changes, and as the nature of the business changes.

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Laura Radke—Wisconsin District Attorney Information Technology Program

Ella Rose Wilson—Prosecutor's Office, Navajo Nation, AZ

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NAJIS

Plan to attend the NAJIS Annual Conference in San Francisco September 20-23, 2005

Tentative Agenda Topics

Are Integrated Justice Efforts Making a Difference?
Demystifying Service Oriented Architectures
Steps to Success—Project Management in the Real World
Federal Funding Opportunities
Differentiated Case Management
Using Performance Measures to Build Political Support
Privacy Issues and Information Sharing
Envisioning Technological Advances
Real-World Applications of GJXDM
Trust Relations in Integrated Systems
Cyber Crime
Digital Mug shots and Facial Recognition
Imaging versus Electronic Documents
Developing Prosecutor Reference Documents in GJXDM
Service Oriented Architecture Case Study
Leveraging Justice Information to Make Business Decisions
Strategic Planning—Pay Now or Pay Later
Using Integrated Systems for Criminal Investigations

The NAJIS conference is focused on practitioners in the justice community. The conference offers information about new technologies that are already working in other justice organizations both at the local, state and national levels. The NAJIS conference is also designed to provide significant opportunities to interact with speakers and attendees and participate in forums that encourage everyone to share ideas, problems, and solutions.

This year's conference will be held in San Francisco at the Hyatt Hotel at world-famous Fisherman's Wharf. With easy access to Pier 39, the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars and Ghirardelli Square, the conference venue puts the city's best attractions at your fingertips. With its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, colorful neighborhoods, world class dining and shopping, San Francisco has something for everyone.

Make your hotel reservation now by calling 415-563-1234 or 1-800-233-1234. Inform the hotel registration desk that you will be there for the NAJIS Conference to receive the special conference rate of \$163. The conference room rate is only guaranteed until August 12, 2005.

For registration information, go to the NAJIS website at WWW.NAJIS.ORG

Or call 202-248-1720