



NAJIS Conference Slated for San Francisco



Photograph courtesy of the San Francisco Visitor and Convention Bureau

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President's Message

Plan to attend this year's NAJIS annual conference, which will be held in beautiful San Francisco and the Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, September 20-23.

The conference agenda is included in this issue of InfoSys and reflects the diverse interests of NAJIS. Conference sessions are targeted towards both technical and non-technical criminal justice practitioners and provides sessions of interest to both audiences.

As in recent years, the NAJIS conference has emphasized data sharing and integrated criminal justice. This year is no exception, and many sessions cover a variety of topics in this area. The conference focuses on the practical experience of criminal justice practitioners, and many sessions reflect this perspective as well.

The conference begins with a session assessing the success and impact of justice integration efforts to date. Many sessions touch on the applicability and use of XML in the criminal justice environment, including implementation efforts in several jurisdictions and emerging standards for data exchange using XML.

NAJIS has been fortunate to participate in national efforts to broaden the use of XML. Five members of NAJIS have participated in the Global effort to develop criminal justice reference docu-

ments, and extra time has been included in our conference to allow participants to review the work of this group.

The conference addresses a variety of other topics of interest to practitioners as well. There will be sessions on funding, investigative techniques, the use of RFID technology, imaging, strategic planning, privacy, differential case management and many other diverse topics.

The conference includes a vendor exhibition, which has grown over the past few years to include many technologies beyond the traditional case management products. Many vendors also generously support the social activities offered during the conference.

Conference activities begin Tuesday evening, September 20, with early registration and a hospitality gathering. This is a great way to kick off the conference and meet other attendees.

Make plans to attend this year's conference today! Early registration offers a substantial discount over the regular registration cost. Groups of three or more are also offered this reduced rate.

The NAJIS conference is a great opportunity to stay current with trends in criminal justice technologies. And what a great place to learn!

See you in San Francisco!

Mary Young, NAJIS President

Pre-Conference XML Workshop Offered by Unisys and Microsoft

Unisys and Microsoft will be offering a hands-on opportunity to learn more about Justice XML at a pre-conference workshop entitled "Integrated Justice: Getting under the Hood". The goal of the workshop is to build an actual information exchange using pre-developed technology components and demonstrating how they all fit together.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Observe real-world exchange events
- Apply requirements from the SEARCH JIEM tool
- Transform legacy data into Justice XML
- Learn about low-cost exchange tools and technologies.

The workshop will be held at the Microsoft Solutions Center in San Francisco the afternoon of Tuesday, September 20th before the conference begins. Participation is free but by invitation only. If you are interested in attending the workshop please register by calling 800-874-8647 extension 502.

Innovative Applications of Technology—Using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology in Court

By Dale Phillips, Director of Court Services, DeKalb County, Georgia, Juvenile Court

With so many emerging technologies to choose from, it can be difficult for a court manager to select what is best for them. Balancing limited technology purchasing dollars and the need to positively affect court performance makes technology decisions difficult.

The most appropriate application of technology should support the decision making process as well as to create efficiencies in operations. For judges to make suitable decisions they must acquire complete and accurate information in a timely manner. Having prompt and reliable access to the information contained in case files is why the DeKalb County Juvenile Court chose a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) solution for tracking of case files.

The DeKalb County Juvenile Court is the second largest juvenile court in Georgia. Once a child is taken into custody, a Probable Cause hearing must be held within 48 hours and a Detention hearing held within 72 hours. In 2004, the court:

- Conducted over 17,000 hearings
- Recorded over 15,000 juvenile offenses
- Investigated more than 2,300 cases of neglect, and
- Heard reviews related to 1,200 youth in foster care and over 1,000 youth under active court supervision.

The court must account for nearly 12,000 active file folders on more than 9,000 children processed through the court system each year. Nearly 8,000 additional inactive files are also maintained by the juvenile court. On any given day, scores of files move through the hands of court staff, judges and others.

Case files are initially logged in the Records Department of the Clerk of Court. Once the cases are set on the court calendars, files are pulled for court hearings. Delinquency case files go to court an average of five times before the case is concluded. Dependency files also

go to court approximately five times before the case is disposed of, and then return to court for review every six months. Because files are constantly moving between different courts, judges, calendar clerks, the Clerk of Court, and various other court personnel, the files are often difficult to locate and errors can result.

It is very disruptive when court records are misplaced in a busy courthouse. The court case flow process can essentially be shut down in order to find a missing file, and this has a ripple effect throughout the entire system.

The DeKalb County Juvenile Court estimated that clerks in the record room were spending approximately 10 hours per week locating lost or misplaced files. Conservative estimates of salary costs associated with lost or misplaced file activity were in the tens of thousands of dollars per year. Lost or misplaced files cause continuances and increase fees paid to outside-appointed attorneys in indigent cases.

RFID Technology Provides Solution

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology has been successfully deployed in the private sector to track goods in retail supply chains, luggage in airports, library materials, and prescription medications. Upon learning that RFID technology would soon be available in the court system, a vendor demonstration was conducted to assess its feasibility.

The solution selected by the court is provided by 3M. A 3M RFID Tracking Tag with a file identifier is placed in each active case folder. As the tagged files move from central file rooms through team rooms, and individual offices, a complete file location history is created and can be viewed on any network computer.

The entire process from proof of concept to implementation took about 9

months. The need to improve operations, top down support from within the Court and the County's Information Systems Department helped to fast track a solution.

Training and implementation took only a few days. Approximately 15,000 files were tagged by a team of 3 in less than 3 days. Case identification data was imported from the court's case tracking system when creating the electronic case file record associated with the physical case file.

Check-in and Check-out procedures involve the use of an electronic pad located at specific locations throughout the courthouse, such as the file room and each court room. Use of the pad is the most efficient way to track file movement and custody and there are a variety of techniques that simplify the check-in/check-out process.

In addition, file locator software that keys off of the RFID tag can be installed on any PC and this can also be used to locate and track files throughout the building. Hand-held scanners can also be used to quickly inventory large numbers of files that are not located near a pad.

The total cost of the program was \$42,310 involving approximately 15,000 files. For less than \$3 per file, results include increased productivity, reduced costs, improved morale, and above all, more timely and effective judicial decision-making.

Dale Phillips is Director of Court Services for the DeKalb County Juvenile Court in Decatur, Georgia. Under the general direction of the Chief Judge, Mr. Phillips develops and implements court policies, priorities and goals. He is responsible for all the day-to-day administrative activities and non-judicial operations of the Juvenile Court. For further information, you can reach him at 404-294-2777 or dpphilli@co.dekalb.ga.us.



2005 NAJIS Conference Agenda "Bridging Justice Information Systems"

Wednesday – September 21, 2005

8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast and Registration	
8:30-9:00	Welcome/Opening Remarks	
9:00-9:45	Keynote: Integrated Justice Efforts: Are they making a Difference?	
9:45-10:00	<i>Break</i>	
10:00-12:00	NAJIS Participant Roundtable: Justice IT Projects and Problems	
12:00-1:30	Luncheon, Justice Systems Applications Presentations (provided)	
	Business Focus	Technology Solutions
1:30-2:30	Demystifying Service Oriented Architectures	Real World Applications of GJXDM Technology
2:30-2:45	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
2:45-3:45	Service Oriented Architecture – A Case Study: Contra Costa County, CA	Designing a Decision Support Database using Criminal Justice Data
3:45-4:00	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
4:00-5:00	Strategic Planning – Spend Time Now or More Money Later	Cyber Crime

Thursday – September 22, 2005

8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast	
8:30-9:30	Plenary: Envisioning Technological Advances in the Future Justice World: Within the Realm of Possibility	
	Business Focus	Technology Solutions
9:30-10:30	Privacy Issues in Information Sharing	Developing a Strong Trust Model
10:30-10:45	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
10:45-11:45	Digital Mugshots and Facial Recognition	Consolidated Name Index
12:00–1:00	Luncheon (provided)	
1:15-2:15	Steps to Successfully Managing Your Justice Integration Project	Using Integrated Systems for Criminal Investigations
2:15-2:30	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
2:30-3:30	Differentiated Felony Case Management.	Part I: Progress Report – Developing GJXDM Prosecutor Documents.
3:30-4:30	Federal Funding Changes and the Impact at the Local Level	Part II: Feedback Session – Making GJXDM Work in Your Jurisdiction
5:30	Outing – Bay Cruise and Dinner	

Conference Agenda and Registration Information continued on next page

2005 NAJIS Conference Agenda (continued)

Friday – September 23, 2005

8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:30	Plenary: Consolidation of Criminal Records—A Case Study from the State of Alabama
9:30-10:30	Plenary: Imaging Documents in the Law and Justice Pipeline—A Case Study
10:30-12:00	NAJIS Membership Meeting and Board Elections
12:00	Adjourn

2005 NAJIS CONFERENCE AND HOTEL REGISTRATION

For hotel reservation, call 1-800-233-1234, toll free.

Reservations must be made by August 12, 2005. If you require any special accommodations, please notify the hotel when you reserve your room. Registration includes NAJIS membership, conference, program, luncheons, and outing for member.

- Early Bird Registration \$325 (by August 1, 2005)
- Regular Registration \$395
- Group Registration \$295 (per person for three or more from the same agency registering at the same time)
- I WILL be attending the outing (cost included in registration)
- I plan to bring ___ guest(s) to the outing (\$50 per guest)

Special accommodations needed for conference or outing, contact 202-448-1720

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to NAJIS and send with this form to:

NAJIS
720 7th Street, NW
3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Register On-line at: www.najis.org

For additional registration information, call 202-448-1720

For Vendor Information, contact: Gordon Lansford 785-291-3527

THE VENUE

This year's conference will be held in the incomparable city of San Francisco at the Hyatt Hotel located 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. Not only will you be attending a conference filled with practical information, but you'll also enjoy a fantastic city. With its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, colorful neighborhoods, world class dining and shopping, San Francisco has something for everyone.

**Make your hotel reservations now by calling
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 plus tax for single/double occupancy. The conference block dates are available until August 12, 2005. Join us in the most European of American cities.

THE CONFERENCE

The NAJIS conference is unique in that it is focused on true **practitioners** in the justice community. This conference will offer insight into new technologies that are already working in other jurisdictions—both at the local and state levels. The NAJIS conference is also designed to provide significant networking opportunities and forums that encourage sharing ideas, problems, and possible solutions. Previous conference participants have positive feedback about this conference;

"[This was the] first conference I ever attended that allowed attendees to present their concerns and projects—EXCELLENT."

***"This was an excellent forum for exchanging information among the conference participants and their agencies."
"[I] found NAJIS conference sessions very informative.
Conference, format, participants, were excellent!"***

Take advantage of the low conference group rate. With its focus on building bridges in justice information systems, this conference is the ideal forum to bring a team from your jurisdiction.

NAJIS Justice XML Efforts Continue

NAJIS is actively participating in the national effort to develop Justice XML Reference Documents. XML, Extensible Markup Language, is the foundation of the national criminal justice data sharing effort being promoted by the Office of Justice Programs, industry and the major criminal justice interest groups. Reference Documents are the templates being developed to share the most common electronic documents between criminal justice agencies.

NAJIS is addressing the requirements of prosecutors in this national effort, and five NAJIS representatives have spent the last six months working on four key data exchanges originated or contributed to by prosecutors: charging documents, summons, warrants and prosecutor dispositions.

NAJIS participants include Kathy Carpenter of the Riley County Kansas County Attorney's Office, Michaela Mathews of the Davidson County (Nashville) Tennessee District Attorney's Office, John Goergen of the Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council, Mark Perbix of the Colorado

Division of Criminal Justice, and Carla Robinson of the Jefferson County Wisconsin District Attorney's Office.

In an effort to ensure acceptability by other criminal justice partners, the committee includes representatives from the courts, law enforcement and the criminal justice information technology vendor community.

The committee expects to complete its work during the summer and make a preliminary presentation of its work at the NAJIS annual conference in San Francisco (see accompanying article on page 1).

The work of the committee is supported by the IJIS Institute and the Industry Working Group. The committee is chaired by Scott Coplan of Coplan and Company.

Reference documents for the courts are being developed by the National Center for State Courts and for law enforcement by SEARCH Group.

For further information about Justice XML contact the IJIS Institute at 202-628-8615.

InfoSys is a publication of the National Association for Justice Information Systems.

Subscriptions are free.

To receive this newsletter: email your request to: mperbix@yahoo.com or contact our office at: 720 7th Street, NW 3rd Floor Washington, D. C. 20001 or call: 202-448-1720 or visit our website at www.najis.org

Officers

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

In Memoriam

NAJIS Director Gerald (Jerry) Hardt of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission died unexpectedly of a heart attack on April 1, 2005. Jerry had been a member of the NAJIS Board of Directors since 1999 and played an important role in coordinating the NAJIS annual conference.

Jerry worked as a law enforcement officer for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office from September 1970 until July 1991 when he retired as a deputy chief. Jerry came to work for the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission in June 1995, and he helped launch the state's criminal justice records integration program.

In honor of Jerry's contribution to the improvement of law enforcement in Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano has officially renamed the Criminal Justice Re-



GERALD "JERRY" E. HARDT

cords Improvement Program (CJRIP) grant that was Jerry's "baby" to the GERALD "JERRY" E. HARDT MEMORIAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORDS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A memorial service was held in Phoenix, Arizona on April 23, 2005. He will be missed by all who knew him.

National Association for Justice Information Systems
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3rd Floor
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NAJIS

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.

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



Photograph courtesy of the San Francisco Visitor and Convention Bureau

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