

California Court Software Still Full of Bugs

SAN FRANCISCO (CN) — California’s trial courts need to adjust their expectations as they switch to Tyler Technologies’ new case management software, the judiciary’s head technology officer said Monday. Speaking at a Judicial Council Technology Committee meeting, Robert Oyung, who started last week as the council’s director of information technology, said that courts already have reported 52 major issues with the new platform. The issues lie mostly with general functionality, interfacing with the Department of Motor Vehicles or implementing specific case types. For example, Alameda County Superior Court has reported problems with clerks trying to enter data into the new system, which it attributes to an unwieldy interface.

The East Bay Times reported this month that three clients of the Public Defender’s Office spent an extra 50 days in jail because judicial orders did not show up in the new Odyssey system. Public Defender Brendon Woods went so far as to ask the court’s supervising judges to stop using Odyssey. “The main themes in terms of where people are having issues after going live with the product is challenges in working with minute orders, manual data entry, user navigation and some client errors,” Oyung said at the meeting.

“We have 26 courts who have been on their case management systems for 10, 15, sometimes 25 years. They’ve had an opportunity to mature their product, enhance their product, make it do exactly what they want. So when they go to a new platform, although it’s a mature product off the shelf, it hasn’t been customized and tuned to a local environment. So there definitely will be gaps in a functionality that a court has experienced over the past 10 or 15 years compared to the new product.” Oyung said courts have joined together to tackle some of the bugs and larger problems with Tyler’s Odyssey case management system. They call themselves the California Tyler User Group. Courts using Odyssey for at least one case type are Alameda, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties. Glenn, Lassen and Stanislaus counties have purchased Odyssey, but haven’t installed it yet. California has 58 counties. “There are some issues that courts have been having from either a product perspective or an implementation perspective, and we felt that this is a way for the courts to get together to help troubleshoot those issues, and have the vendor involved to be able to work as a community to help resolve those issues,” Oyung said.

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Full Article Here: <http://www2.courthousenews.com/california-court-software-still-full-of-bugs/>

Colombian police rescue kidnapped L.A. Superior Court judge

By Steven Crighton

LOS ANGELES — Judge Benny Osorio was rescued by Colombian police Thursday after nearly a week in captivity, the Los Angeles County Superior Court confirmed on Friday.

Osorio, 50, was held in Colombia by a group of kidnapers demanding a \$33,000 ransom, according to a report from The Associated Press. He was rescued by "an elite anti-kidnapping unit" in the popular tourist city of Cartagena.



OSORIO

Osorio is a Colombian native, according to a 2009 interview with the Daily Journal, having immigrated to the U.S. when he was 2-years-old. He was born in the city of Barranquilla, about two hours from where he was rescued. His father, an architect, served as secretary-general of the Universidad del Atlántico, a research university in Barranquilla.

Osorio was appointed to the bench by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2008 and was initially assigned to the Antelope Valley Courthouse. He currently serves in the county's civil division, overseeing Department 97 at Stanley Mosk Courthouse. He was a deputy district attorney for 13 years prior to his appointment.

Carolyn B. Kuhl, presiding judge of Los Angeles County Superior Court, said in a statement that the court is "relieved that a very frightening and threatening incident involving our colleague" had been resolved.

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Chief justice, attorneys urge more funding for civil jury trials

By Malcolm Maclachlan

SACRAMENTO — Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and several attorneys called for the state to protect access to civil jury trials at a town hall event Friday at the McGeorge School of Law.

The Save Our Juries Town Hall was sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates as part of an effort to draw attention to the decreasing use of civil jury trials.

The national president of ABOTA, Charles H. Baumberg, said people are far more likely to approve of jury service if they have served on one. Yet the use of jury trials has been falling for decades.

In fact, he noted only one current U.S. Supreme Court justice, Sonia Sotomayor, has argued a civil jury trial as an attorney and heard one as a judge.

"Thomas Jefferson said the most important right is the right to trial by jury," said Baumberg, a partner with Rossman, Baumberger, Reboso & Spier P.A. "It is the right to trial by jury that ensures almost every other right."

Gov. Jerry Brown, who attended the event, attributed the falling prevalence of jury trials to the wider trend of "the secular priesthood of accountants and economists" wanting to take away an important "counterforce to authority."

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The Recorder

Calif. Supreme Court Sets Funding for Bar Discipline System

Active California lawyers will pay \$297 to fund disciplinary functions in 2017.

Updated at 1:45 p.m. PST

SACRAMENTO—The state Supreme Court late Thursday ordered active California lawyers to pay \$297 to fund State Bar disciplinary functions in 2017 after lawmakers failed to pass an annual dues bill.

The \$297 base assessment—statutorily mandated fees add another \$75 to the final bill—does not cover everything on bar leaders' original wish list. But it will pay for a wide range of discipline services, including a portion of the work performed by the bar's communications office and the California Young Lawyers Association.

In an order signed by all seven justices, the court also appointed Justice Elwood Lui of the Second District Court of Appeal to oversee how the bar collects and spends the assessment. The court had previously named Lui a special master charged with reviewing the bar's fee request.

Elizabeth Parker, executive director of the state bar, said in a statement: "We are grateful for the Supreme Court's thoughtful and prompt consideration of our fee request in its interim assessment order, and will continue moving forward in our public protection work."

Parker said the Board of Trustees planned to discuss the dues order at its meeting Friday.

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Met News

Supreme Court Assesses State's Lawyers \$297 Each

Justice Lui to Reprise Role as Special Master Overseeing Special Fund

The California Supreme Court Friday ordered the State Bar's 187,551 active members to pay a \$297 assessment next year in the wake of the Legislature not passing an annual dues bill.

The court unanimously approved the order in *In re Attorney Discipline System*, S237081. It adopts an interim rule requiring each member to pay the assessment, made up of \$283 to support activities related to discipline, \$9 "to fund implementation of the workforce plan recommendations from the National Center for State Courts," and \$5 "to make up for revenue the State Bar will forgo because of assessment scaling and assessment waivers."

The discipline assessment, which will be due by March 1, explicitly includes funding for the Office of General Counsel, Office of Professional Competence, member billing, and mandatory fee arbitration. It also includes funds for discipline-related activities of the Office of Communications and the California Young Lawyers Association.

No Lobbying

The order expressly prohibits use of the assessment for legislative lobbying, elimination of bias, and bar relations programs.

The court noted that the assessment is in addition to those amounts that the State Bar is permitted to assess without an annual dues bill, plus any voluntary contributions members might make. The total amount of members' mandatory fee statements could not be immediately ascertained, a State Bar spokesperson explained, as the Board of Trustees was set to discuss the matter at its meeting Friday.

The high court appointed Court of Appeal Justice Elwood Lui, of this district's Div. One, as special master to oversee the collection and spending of the money. It will be a reprise of the role he played in 1999 when the court imposed a similar assessment—the only other time it has done so—in the wake of then-Gov. Pete Wilson having vetoed a dues bill.

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Full Article Here: <http://www.metnews.com/articles/2016/sbar112116.htm>