

County praised for being test site for courts case management system

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Monroe County's judicial system was praised Monday for piloting the state's new Odyssey computer case management system.

Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan Jr. also announced some upgrades to the Web-based system the state hopes will eventually be used in all 92 counties, and he also unveiled a new log-in screen for Odyssey that features the Monroe County Courthouse.

Sullivan admitted there have been some bugs in the new system, which the county began using Dec. 17.

"It's not all been a bed of roses," Sullivan said Monday during a visit to Bloomington. "The pilot is not called a pilot by accident ... Change is hard and this is complicated stuff."

But local court reporters, employees in the clerks office and others who use the system have been gracious and worked with the state on the issues, he said. "It's so gratifying the people in this building have been willing to take this upon themselves, and realize they're in the process of building something of enormous importance to the state's entire justice system," Sullivan said.

He spoke briefly in the atrium of the Justice Building, where a screen set up in the corner displayed the new log-in screen for the program. The Monroe County Courthouse—sans fish, however — is the dominant feature of the new screen. The idea was to honor Monroe County for its participation and "pioneering spirit," Sullivan said.

Donna Edgar, with the Indiana Supreme Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, said several upgrades were added to the system Monday, including adding more information to a case's chronological case summary and a new function to help the clerk's office balance its books.

The county is a test site for Odyssey, the state's new Webbased computerized case management system. Eight counties are next in line to hook onto the program: Huntington, Allen, DeKalb, Hamilton, Madison, Harrison, Floyd and Clark counties. The Judicial Technology and Automation Committee has said it hopes the program will be used in all 92 counties within five years and is footing the bill for the system, developed by Texasbased Tyler Technology.

Odyssey enables courts to automate functions such as imaging, accounting, docketing and creating calendars and reports. In addition, it allows the public to check the status of a case through the Internet for free. That Web site can be accessed at <http://mycase.in.gov>.