

Supreme Court

No. 2021-09

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Data is information which can improve the quality of people's lives. Good data provides indisputable evidence of both strengths and weaknesses in the system, serves as a basis for developing efficient and effective policies and procedures, informs strategies for change and allocation of resources, and helps to identify successful programs and practices, as well as those that are outdated or obsolete. At its core, the Rhode Island Judiciary's data reflects the people involved in our system of justice, including judicial processing and outcomes, successes, and failures.

To enhance the Judiciary's ability to collect, store, analyze, retain, and disseminate this valuable resource, I hereby establish a Data Governance Committee pursuant to the authority vested in me by G.L. 1956 § 8-15-2. Data is not only necessary for the operation of the courts and management of cases, but also for strategic planning, developing policies and budgets, and improving court performance. Data should inform decision making, facilitate communication and transparency, and serve as the foundation for evaluation and research. The mission of the Data Governance Committee is to ensure that the rules relating to the collection, use, storage and disposal of data are consistent and outline uniform quality standards across the unified court system, as well as to formally document and disseminate all policies and procedures pertaining to data requests, both internal and external.

The Data Governance Committee shall be comprised of representatives and subject matter experts from each court within the unified court system, as well as the Supreme Court's

Office of General Counsel, Judicial Planning Unit, Judicial Technology Center, Community Outreach and Public Relations Office, Judicial Records Center, Office of Finance and Budget, the Diversity Coordinator, and the Supreme Court Clerk's Office. The Deputy State Court Administrator shall serve as chairperson of the Data Governance Committee.

The committee shall meet as needed to develop and submit a Rhode Island Judiciary Data Governance Policy Guide to the Chief Justice as soon as practicable.

Entered as an Executive Order this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

BY ORDER:

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/s/  
Paul A. Sutell  
Chief Justice