

# Cochise County Superior Court Law Library Re-engineering Project

Funded by the State Justice Institute

Consultant: National Center for State Courts

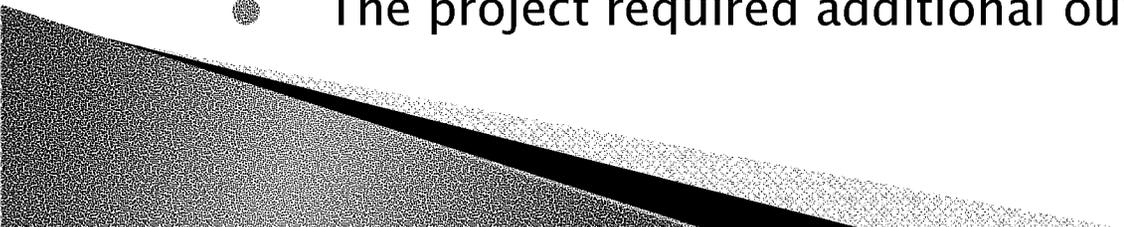
Presentation to Board of Supervisors  
October 11, 2016

# How Did this Project Arise?

- ▶ This project was identified during our strategic plan process and supports the Focus Area 1 “Access and Services” of the Strategic Plan.

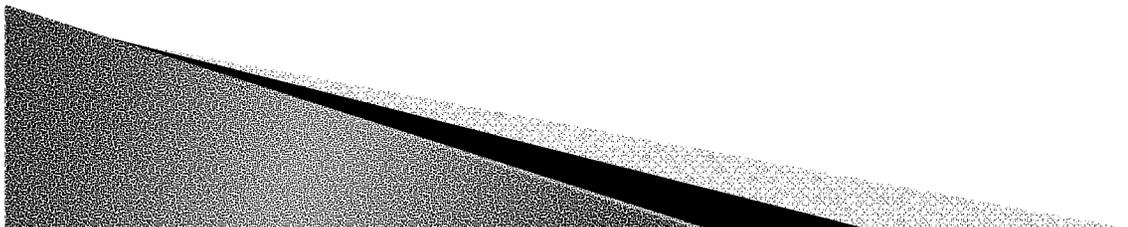
- (1) improve physical access.
- (2) improve access to court and case information both in person and via digital media (e.g., in the Library, via the Website).
- (3) enhance remote and electronic access.

The project to improve access in the Law Library was deferred because:

- The library was still under long term publisher contracts.
  - The first strategic plan priority was to execute projects with little or no cost.
  - The project required additional outside expertise.
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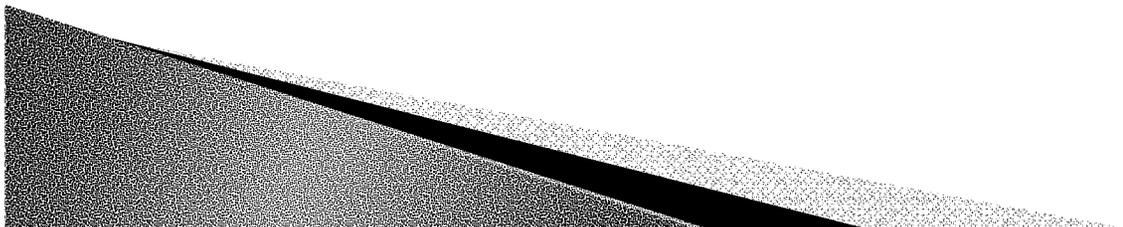
# Funding

- ▶ Project was funded by a grant provided by the State Justice Institute (SJI).
- ▶ No general fund money was used for this assessment.



# Purpose

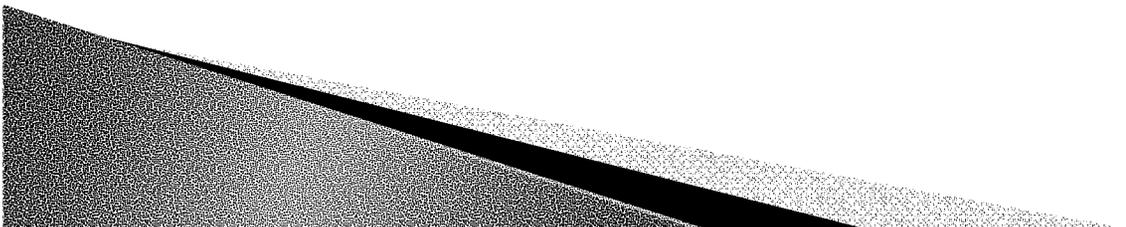
- ▶ Improve the Court's current service to self-represented litigants.
- ▶ Determine how such services can be enhanced.
  - Review service methods.
  - Evaluate the facility space from which services are provided.
  - Determine local appropriateness of "best practices".



# Primary Goal

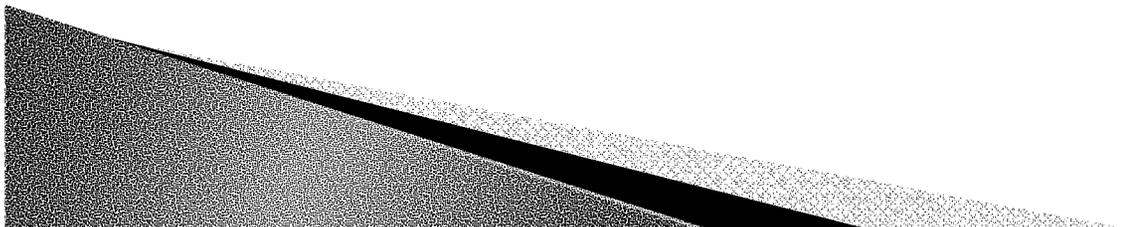
- ▶ Increase court access for self-represented litigants.

This new service model is a purposeful and dramatic departure from the long standing service model which focused on research assistance to the attorney community. We have been gradually evolving to this model for several years. It is time to expedite this completion.



## Consultant's Priority Recommendations (Among a Total of 39)

- 1) Rebrand court access for self-represented litigants.
  - Self-Service Center.
- 2) Re-engineer existing space.
  - Work closely with County Facilities to see what is feasible.
  - Divide the Law Library functions from the Interpreter's Office to improve privacy and service to non-English speakers and the self-represented litigants.
- 3) Re-engineer staffing.
  - Create a full-time coordinator position to effectively manage and coordinate the services of the Self-Service Center and Law Library.



# Recommendations Cont.

## 4) Tools and resources.

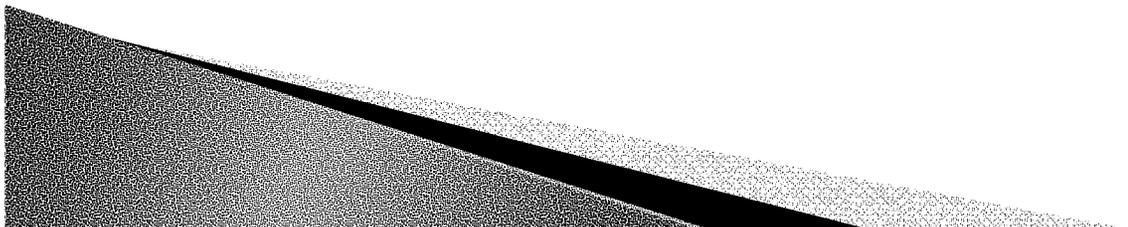
- Reevaluate.
- Create Cochise County specific forms.
- Create handouts.

## 5) Technology.

- Develop a Court specific website.

## 6) Partnerships and access points.

- Work closely with County and City Libraries.



# Work In Progress

- ▶ Continuation of the 8 year effort to reduce book publication subscriptions and surplus unneeded books creating savings.
- ▶ Project Committee.
- ▶ Continued relationship with Consultants (3/2017).
- ▶ Working closely with Facilities to re-engineer the Law Library space.
- ▶ Developing partnerships with County and City Libraries.

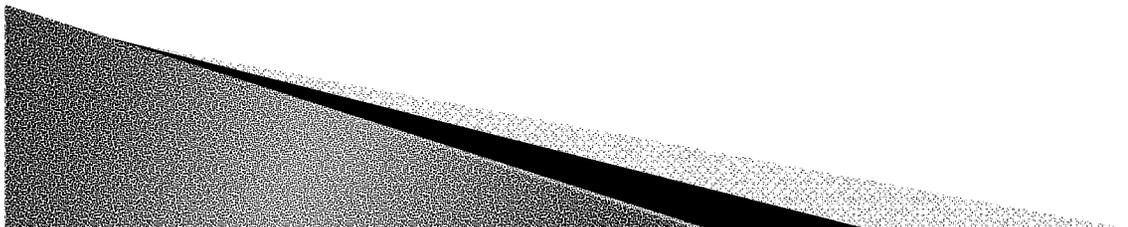
Next step.

Forms.

Website.

Expand services.

Create new position.



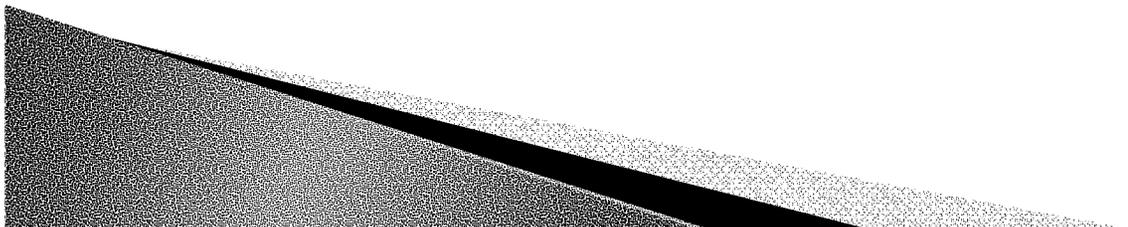
# Library Book Expenditures

## (A Continuing Trend of Reduction)

Budget Yr	Expenditures
2013-2014	\$190,674.91
2014-2015	\$180,215.33
2015-2016	\$158,101.68

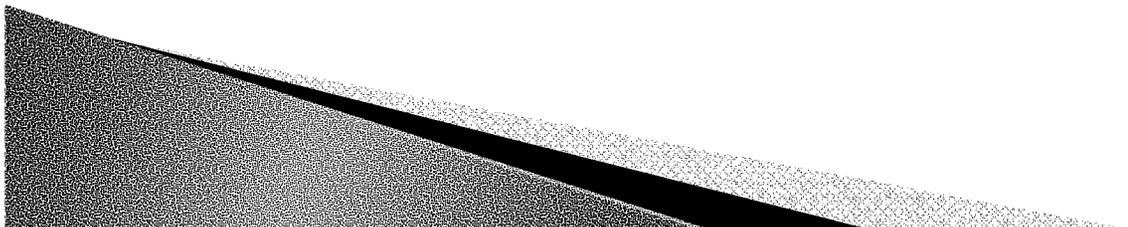
Thomson Contract Termination	\$85,376.67
New Thomson Cost	<u>\$17,152.75</u>
Annual Savings	\$68,223.92

Prorated Savings for remainder of FY 2017  
**\$51,017.25**



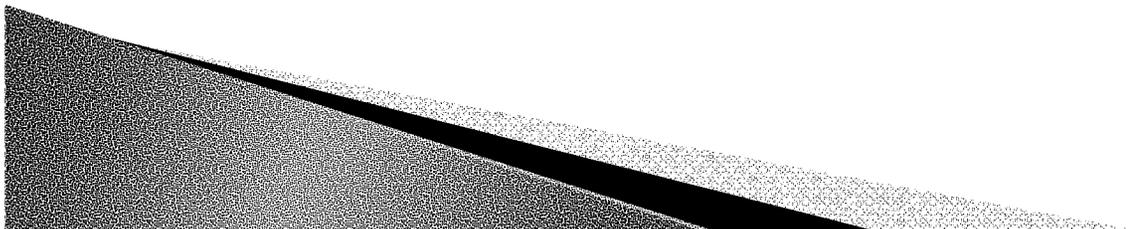
# New Position Prorated Expenses 1 /2017 to 6/30/2017

▶ Salary	\$16,562.00
▶ ERE	\$6,499.00
▶ Computer	\$1,000.00
▶ Travel	\$500.00
▶ Supplies	\$500.00
▶ Furniture	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
▶ Total	\$27,151.00



# Funding of New Position

- ▶ From this \$51,017.25 we are asking for BOS action to repurpose some of our existing budget allocation to fund and create this position. **NO additional funds are requested.**
- ▶ This exceeds the estimated cost of the position (\$27,151) for the remainder of the fiscal year. This position is also sustainable on annual basis.

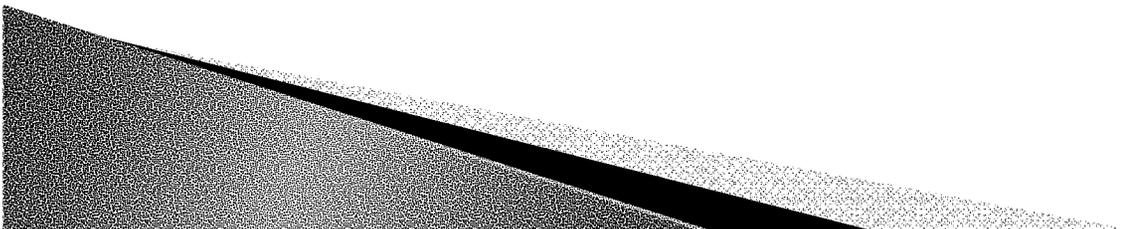


# Action Requested

Please approve request to create a position to assist us to improve service to Cochise County residents.

Our current budget allocation is more than sufficient to support this position.

The future is bright. Thank you for your partnership.



# Project Committee Members

- ▶ Honorable James L. Conlogue, Presiding Superior Court Judge
- ▶ Honorable Timothy Dickerson, Presiding Justice of the Peace
- ▶ Eric Silverberg, Superior Court Administrator
- ▶ Veronica Olivares, Chief Interpreter/Librarian
- ▶ Ray Falkenberg, Cochise County Health Department Deputy Director
- ▶ Ann English, Cochise County Board of Supervisors
- ▶ Rachel Raynes, Arizona Attorney General's Office
- ▶ Daniel Shumway, Southern Arizona Legal Aid
- ▶ Jana Flagler, Attorney
- ▶ Jason Macosiak, Library Coordinator, City of Bisbee
- ▶ Theresa Barrett, AOC, Manager – Court Services Division
- ▶ Janet Cornell, Consultant, National Center for State Courts
- ▶ Greg Langham, Consultant, National Center for State Courts

