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## **Industry Policy Statement Support of XML Standards for Justice Information Sharing**

Technology standards for information sharing are essential to homeland security. To allow the justice community to efficiently and accurately exchange information across jurisdictions, their communication devices must recognize the same standards. Historically, standards have been the key to all major technology advancements in our society: from the use of electricity to the proliferation of television and the Internet. In the United States, the private sector has taken primary responsibility for developing and implementing technology standards.

Today, industry and government are working together through organizations such as the World Wide Web Consortium and OASIS to develop standards for uniform information sharing via the Internet. This is especially true in the integrated justice market segment, where 90% of all systems are developed and deployed by the private sector on behalf of public sector organizations. To improve information sharing, the integrated justice industry should support the development of uniform standards for promising technologies like Extensible Markup Language (XML).

To that end, two leading justice industry groups, the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute and the IJIS Industry Working Group (IWG) strongly endorse the XML standards development efforts of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Justice XML Data Dictionary and associated reference model provide a baseline from which public sector organizations and their private sector service providers can define the data elements and components to facilitate information sharing among justice practitioners. Furthermore, in an ever-shrinking global justice environment the Justice XML reference model gives the United States the opportunity to become a model for international justice information sharing.

The value of partnership between the public and private sectors in the area of standards development cannot be overstated. Successful initiatives of this scope require the leadership of a government agency like the Department of Justice, coupled with a cohesive industry team like the IWG and IJIS Institute. This combination of practitioners and vendors working on the same standards initiative completes the chain that is necessary to identify the necessary standards and produce "real-world" deliverable solutions. Therefore, IJIS Institute and IWG advocate continued public and private sector involvement in the effort as these standards mature and grow.

The IJIS Institute and IWG stand ready to assist our partners at the Justice Department, the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, and state and local governments in raising awareness and understanding between government agencies and the vendor community on the Justice XML standards effort. We encourage the use and adoption of the resulting standards in the products and services the vendor community provides. We endorse and support the Department of Justice efforts toward the implementation of common standards for the exchange of justice information throughout the nation.