



## CASE STUDY

### Client Overview

The Integrated Law and Justice Agency for Orange County (ILJAOC) leads California in developing technologies that vastly improve the criminal justice and court systems in the state. Touching every criminal justice system in the county, ILJAOC represents the sheriff's department, probation department, district attorney, public defender, city managers and the Superior Court of California in Orange County, in addition to police units from University of California, Irvine, and California State University, Fullerton.

Public Safety Canada and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) have endorsed the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) for use in the Canadian Law Enforcement community. Sierra Systems is now a proud working member of the Law Enforcement Information Data Standards group within CACP.

# INTEGRATED LAW AND JUSTICE AGENCY FOR ORANGE COUNTY

NIEM-based Information Exchanges linking Police, Prosecution, Court, and Corrections

## CHALLENGE

A priority for the Integrated Law and Justice Agency for Orange County (ILJAOC) was the creation of a widely embraced exchange portal to transmit and share information using National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) standardization. The first project for the portal was to electronically process Probable Cause Declarations (PCDs). When police officers arrest suspects and want to detain them until an arraignment on the charges, they need concurrence from a judge who reviews the circumstances and decides whether there is sufficient cause to do so.

Until recently, requesting PCDs in Orange County was a paper-based process (sometimes generated from a records management system unique to each department), with duplicate, manually created forms faxed or physically walked over to the court by sheriff's deputies. Tracking the paperwork flow was, at best, a challenge, leading to the potential release of suspects because time ran out to verify concurrence from the assigned judge. It was a pain point for both law enforcement and the court system.

## OUR SOLUTION

ILJAOC contracted Sierra Systems to streamline and expedite the probable cause declaration process. Sierra Systems aligned business and IT for end-to-end process improvement to handle design, infrastructure, architecting and development, together creating a secure exchange portal with Software AG's webMethods platform. We used out-of-the-box functionality as much as possible to develop the portal, and used NIEM based exchanges to standardize the data format (some originating from multiple different RMS systems).

The project had a number of goals, such as automating workflow, reducing duplicate data entries and integrating with systems already capturing information — but at heart, it all came down to information sharing.

## CASE STUDY

*“The ILJAOC shares data on a number of platforms and already has a reputation for statewide leadership in that field. However, we needed a platform that could pass operational data and drive enhanced business practices at a more efficient level. The portal built by Sierra Systems, using Software AG’s webMethods platform, and NIEM based exchanges provided that infrastructure.”*  
 Bob McDonell, Executive Director, ILJAOC

Now, arresting officers can log into the portal, enter arrestee information and probable cause data onto a form and submit it electronically to the court. Judges see a narrative description and green and red buttons to push, indicating “yes, hold suspect in custody” or “no, insufficient evidence to hold.”

Using unique IDs, the judges can access the application on iPads anywhere, taking advantage of mobility and ease of use to render decisions quickly for arresting agencies. Management screens on the portal help the jail manage interactions with the inmates, so they know who has been approved for release versus who must stay longer term.

## BENEFITS

- For the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, this solution reduced its role in managing the paper flow process — officers now have an automated notification for inmates awaiting the probable cause declaration concurrence process that warns them when time is running out to receive information before the suspect must be released.
- The electronic portal process eliminates the need for travelling with paperwork. It provides efficient data storage, and the courts receive a completed PDF back in the system that they can recover easily in a timely manner.
- The probable cause declaration pilot project allows the courts to replace a laborious, redundant manual process for an electronic, multipurpose one — a lightweight deployment that easily integrates into the daily workflow of the court.
- Since the solution went live in 2012, 24 agencies have produced more than 20,000 records. The very robust information-sharing system can now move operational data all around the county.

### Sierra NIEM-based Information Exchanges

Sierra Systems, together with our US affiliate Sierra-Cedar, has now delivered other numerous NIEM-based Information Exchanges with Justice & Public Safety agencies.

	Police	Prosecution & Defense	Courts	Corrections
<b>San Mateo County</b> San Francisco Population: 750,000	✓		✓	✓
<b>Shelby County</b> Memphis Population: 950,000	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Orange County</b> Anaheim Population: 3M	✓		✓	
<b>State of Oregon</b> Salem Population: 4M	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Los Angeles County</b> Los Angeles Population: 10M	✓	✓	✓	

### Learn More

To learn more about how Sierra’s solution can help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of your organization, contact us:

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