

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Governor Chet Culver ★ Lt. Governor Patty Judge

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*August 3, 2010*

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## **Governor Culver and Chief Justice Ternus Announce National Award**

DES MOINES – Today, Governor Chet Culver and Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus announced Iowa's receipt of a national award for the State's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) integration project. This award is sponsored by the national Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Institute.

Iowa CJIS, which began in 2003, is a joint project of the Iowa Executive Branch and the Iowa Judicial Branch. The purpose of the CJIS project is to align the state's numerous and diverse criminal justice information systems and processes and create a seamless electronic information sharing process that will improve the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of critical communications among criminal justice agencies, the courts and local law enforcement officials. Ultimately, these improvements will strengthen public safety.

"The CJIS project, which maximizes the use of technology to allow Iowa's criminal justice practitioners to electronically transmit critical information in real-time, provides a model for other states to follow," Culver said. "CJIS, when fully implemented, will reduce the time and redundancy of the current, paper-based process and enable automated information sharing in a common format between state, local, and federal criminal justice agencies."

The award recognizes "technical innovation that has contributed significantly to the advancement of integration and interoperability in a justice, public safety, or homeland security program." The IJIS calls Iowa CJIS a "stellar example of what true, effective information sharing can accomplish at a statewide level."

"All credit for this prestigious award belongs to the CJIS Advisory Committee and project staff," said Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, Iowa Supreme Court. "This honor

reflects the committee members' shared belief that public safety is a top government priority and effective communication among all criminal justice entities is essential when it comes to ensuring public safety. This award is a tribute to the committee's strong leadership, collaborative spirit, and commitment to excellence."

Oversight for the project is provided by a nineteen-member, multi-jurisdictional advisory committee comprised of criminal justice practitioners and elected officials from state, county, and city government. The CJIS staff works out of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning. More information can be found on the CJIS project by visiting Iowa's CJIS web site at [www.cjis.iowa.gov](http://www.cjis.iowa.gov).

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