**Proposed Scope of Work for CalConnect Assistance to Oasis-Open LegalXML Electronic Court Filing (draft version 2, March 31, 2015)**

**Problem statement:**

Oasis-Open LegalXML Electronic Court Filing (ECF) group is in the process of developing the next iteration of their standard, 5.0. ECF and predecessors has been in operation since 1999 and have developed four major releases of their XML based standard that is used by courts both nationally and internationally. The standard allows interoperability between filers (lawyers), sometimes service providers, to the courts and return of both data and documents.

**Initial scope of work:**

In the initial phase, the ECF group desires to provide scheduling information as part of the court’s message return. Courts normally will simply send an initial date to the filer reflecting the next step in the court process. This is either a hearing date or a date in which the next filing is due such as a response by the respondent in a civil matter. And another example are traffic cases are often scheduled on the police officers “court date”.

So deliverable 1 needed is: A message part that either a) recommends an existing scheduling standard message. Or b) provides ECF with applicable and recommended parts of an existing message standard that could be incorporated into the draft 5.0 standard.

Please note that the ECF understands that in practice this “one response” approach initiates telephone or e-mail exchanges between parties and/or parties and the court to negotiate an agreed upon date and time. And the urgency of that date and time depends on the type of case and case event that is being scheduled. So for example a person being held in jail for initial appearance would need to be brought before a judge for a release hearing within 24, 36, or 48 hours depending upon the state.

However, ECF would like to ask what might be possible in a future scheduling message exchange. The courts need to have the ability to hold a “conversation” in which the various participants can electronically communicate in place of the telephone/e-mail approach noted above.

So deliverable 2 could potentially be one or all of the following:

1. A recommendation for adoption of a CalConnect standard (e.g., Consensus Scheduling VPOLL) that supports this capability;
2. A recommendation for the adoption of XML elements for ECF 5.0 to support a conversation capability; and/or
3. A recommendation or design for incorporating a future “conversation” approach into ECF.

Please note that the ECF was only able to secure $3,500 in funding from Oasis-Open and therefore this is the extent of paid assistance that is possible from CalConnect at this time.

**Conclusion**

We at LegalXML ECF look forward to our discussion regarding these ideas with CalConnect.