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November 19, 2010

Ms. Robin Gibson
Office of State Courts Administrator
State of Missouri
2112 Industrial Drive
P. O. Box 014480
Jefferson City MO 65110

Dear Ms. Gibson:

Fax cc: 573 751 5540

Thank you for your work coordinating the time change on next Tuesday's meeting of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) Legal XML Court Filing Technical Committee. I will try and come on the call this Tuesday--I am taking my father in for his stress test--it may not be feasible. And my sympathies for the technical committee when OASIS has concerns about the justification for a separate Member Section. The last two years, I have been focusing my research efforts on a long-term interest of mine, namely participatory democracy.

A former student and myself are using XML in an implementation. The program simply presents cases to the participants and invites them to make a decision. But they have to identify the reasons for their decision. Dr. Kevin Ashley and coworkers developed a technique called factors. Their program is a teaching aid to develop law student's ability to argue appellate cases from precedent. We will experiment to determine if the software enforcing factors can help the participants maintain consistency and predictability from case to case.

Our XML represents the cases, the participants' decision, their opinion and the factors used. Some situations presents are total hypotheticals; others come from prior Supreme Court or other cases. I borrowed some of the tags from the Court Document 1.1 standard to represent these. At the turn of the century, Legal XML was looking into a standard for citations. Unfortunately, I cannot locate such a standard now.

I enclose a sample of what are using below. I do not anticipate that we will be using our XML to exchange data with other programs or researchers--so there is no reason to standardize what we are doing. However, if the TC has any input, probably in the December or January call, on which Legal XML standard from which we should work, we would appreciate hearing it.

Of course, when the program is completely implemented and put in use to do controlled experiments on legal reasoning and opinion development, we will file a report with the Legal XML TC. Again, thanks for your hard work to keep legal XML going.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence L. Leff

Laurence L. Leff, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Computer Science

<case id="case_1" case-type-id="fourth-ammendment"
desc="State vs. Coolidge">
<caseMetadata><court><courtName>Supreme Court of New Hampshire
</courtName></court>
<caseTitle><fullCaseTitle>State vs. Coolidge</fullCaseTitle></caseTitle>
<citation>106 N. H. 186</citation>
<citation>208 A. 2d 322</citation>
<party><organization>State</organization></party>
<party><person><fullName>Edward H. Coolidge</fullName></person></party>
<relatedCase><court>Supreme Court of the United States</court>
<caseTitle><fullCaseTitle>Coolidge vs. New Hampshire</fullCaseTitle>
</caseTitle>
<citation>403 U. S. 443</citation>
<citation>91 S. Ct. 2022</citation>
<citation>29 L. Ed 2d 564</citation>
<date>June 21, 1971</date>
</relatedCase>
</caseMetadata>
<squib>
<p>

On January 13, 1964, Pamela Mason, a young girl residing in Manchester, disappeared from her home and eight days later, on January 21, 1964, the body was found. On January 28, 1964, Sergeant Doyon and Officer LeClair visited Mr. Coolidge's home. He lived there with his wife, Joanne, aged twenty-seven,

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taken with Ms. Coolidge's consent that they were associated with the Mason murder.

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</squib>

<option id="suppress-guns" option-id="suppress" name="Suppress the guns">
Suppress the guns that the Police Officers
took during the first visit to Mr. Coolidge's home.</option>
<option id="suppress-clothing" option-id="suppress"
name="Suppress the clothing">Suppress the clothing that the Police
Officers took during the first visit to Mr. Coolidge's home.</option>

• • •

</case>

cc: gibson