



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel

Licht Judicial Complex

250 Benefit Street

Providence, RI 02903

401-222-8714/401-222-8634 (Fax)

October 23, 2024

Access Rhode Island
New England First Amendment Coalition
111 Milk Street
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
justin@nefac.org

Dear Mr. Pickering and Mr. Silverman:

Thank you for contacting the Rhode Island Judiciary regarding the Supreme Court's implementation of Tyler Technologies' re:Search system, a public access portal which is expected to launch by Spring 2025.

In addition to data migration and user testing, the implementation of re:Search will require updating access policies and court rules and undertaking a public information campaign. The Supreme Court is currently evaluating the functionality and access levels that will be programmed in re:Search and which will be codified in court rules. Proposed changes to the public access rules will be published and public comment will be sought prior to final issuance. In addition, please be assured that concerns you have raised with respect to the functional limitations and challenges of the system itself will be thoroughly addressed during user testing.

The Judiciary takes great care in researching, conducting comparative state analyses, and weighing the advantages and challenges inherent in implementing new systems, platforms, rule changes or policy modifications. The implementation of re:Search will be no different. Of course, public records have been and will continue to be accessible to the public at every courthouse in the State of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your outreach and for engaging on this important topic. We welcome your written input on these emerging technologies at any time, and we look forward to sharing proposed rules for your consideration and comment within the next few months.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly
General Counsel

cc: Alexandra Kriss, Deputy State Court Administrator