

Dear Bar Colleagues,

We know that the changes made to the attorney portal last week have created a range of issues. We recognize the validity of many of your concerns and we will work with you to identify solutions as we consider how to balance access with security.

We do want to let you know that the Judicial Information Services Department (JISD) continues to implement safety measures to MassCourts to reduce the likelihood of further harvesting of data. One of those safety features, "captcha," was implemented yesterday on Masscourts.org. The feature requires a user of this public website to translate scrambled characters the first time they attempt to use the search features. Once the correct characters have been entered, the user can complete as many searches as they need.

This tool can be annoying but it is designed to prevent the automated scraping or harvesting of data from our internet facing portal. JISD will monitor how well it works and whether it addresses the data harvesting concerns. JISD continues to look at what additional security measures can be implemented to protect and monitor MassCourts, particularly criminal case information in the attorney portal.

We will continue to work with you and hope you understand our need to keep companies and individuals on the internet from extracting court records into their own databases for possible inappropriate secondary uses. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.



Paula M. Carey
Chief Justice of the Trial Court



Harry Spence
Court Administrator