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November 5, 2003

Melvin L. Laird
#11529318
Snake River Correctional Institution
777 Stanton Blvd.
Ontario, OR 97914-8335

RE: *Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order:*
Records of the State Court Administrator

Dear Mr. Laird:

This letter is the Attorney General's order on your petition for disclosure of records under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.410 to 192.505. Your petition, which we received on October 29, 2003, asks the Attorney General to direct the State Court Administrator to make available certain records concerning the appointment of a pro tem judge. For the reasons that follow, we respectfully deny your petition.

The Public Records Law confers a right to inspect any public records of a public body in Oregon, subject to certain exemptions and limitations. *See* ORS 192.420. Under ORS 192.450, the Attorney General may order a state agency to disclose public records when the agency has denied any person the right to inspect or receive a copy of the records. The Attorney General does not have authority to order disclosure of public records unless the agency has denied a request for those records.

We have been provided with a copy of the response to your request, sent to you on November 3, 2003, from Bradd Swank of the State Court Administrator's office. Mr. Swank's letter was accompanied by the records you had requested. Because the agency has provided you the records, we deny your petition as moot.

Sincerely,

PETER D. SHEPHERD
Deputy Attorney General

AGS13160
c: Bradd Swank, Office of the State Court Administrator