

BAIL REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES

Prioritizing Public Safety while Encouraging Fiscal Responsibility

Bail reform is one part of a much broader movement to transform U.S. criminal law and enforcement. Currently, there are more than 175 different pieces of legislation being considered at the state and federal level in the United States related to bail reform.³ Why is bail reform such an important topic right now?

1. Bail has become a “pay to play” game. If a person has the money to post bail, here is a high probability that they won't be incarcerated pretrial. Many individuals do not have the money to post bail and are forced to wait in jail for their trial date; and this is at a significant cost to tax-payers.
2. The issue of community and public safety. People who cannot afford to post even a \$500 bail can spend years in jail waiting for their trial.¹ A key component of bail reform that states are attempting to tackle is evaluation bail based on the severity of the infraction, rather than an individual's ability to afford bail.
3. Current bail processes in the U.S. hinder the constitutional right to a speedy trial, articulated in the 6th amendment and the no excessive bail clause in the 8th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

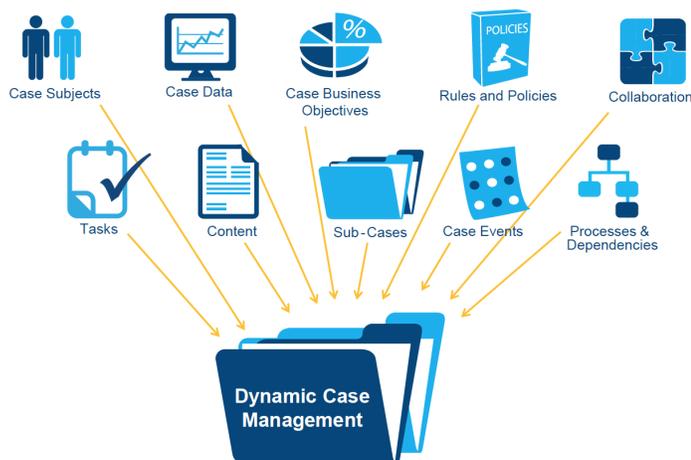
Applying the right technology can support bail reform efforts and ultimately improve citizen lives and public safety. Through leveraging dynamic case management and a business rules engine, judges and other public safety stakeholders can make more informed decisions.

New Jersey Courts: Comprehensive Bail Reform Legislation

In 2014, the State of New Jersey passed the most comprehensive statewide bail reform legislation in the country. Effective in January 2017, New Jersey's law provides for non-monetary release options, individual risk assessments, pre-trial services, the ability to hold an individual without bail, and a guarantee of a timeline for speedy trials.

New Jersey Courts turned to Pegasystems to help with the implementation of its bail reform legislation. Pega's robust case management system and business rules engine are being used for New Jersey Court's unified complaint entry, which allows police officers to enter in complaints, tickets, and their risk assessment of the individual being arrested. Once the risk assessment has been validated, a judge will decide on the arrestee's eligibility for bail.

New Jersey Courts is truly prioritizing public safety while emphasizing fiscal responsibility.



Pega is the market leader with the industry's most comprehensive and unified dynamic case management (DCM) platform that helps government get work done across the entire lifecycle of a case. Pega provides an agile work environment, multi-channel integration, social collaboration and mobile support, predictive and adaptive analytics for user guidance and decision support, enterprise content management integration, and business rules.

THE FACTS

- Pretrial incarceration wastes \$9B tax dollars every year²
- The United States puts more people in jail than any other country¹
- The U.S. prison population increased 400% between 1973 and 2013¹
- 6 out of 10 inmates inside a U.S. jail are currently there waiting for their trial²
- 9 out of 10 individuals who remain in jail before their trial do so because they can't afford to pay bail²
- On any one day, U.S. jails can be home to over 730,000 people awaiting trial¹
- The average cost of a bed in jail is \$60 per night, but can be as high as \$200²

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/07/20/theres-never-been-a-better-time-for-bail-reform/>

² <http://www.pretrial.org/the-problem/>

³ www.fiscalnote.com