

How a Court Data Warehouse Changed Workload Decisions

From weeks-old reporting to daily insight—giving court leaders a clearer view of caseloads, capacity, and resource needs.

REPORTING WAS ALWAYS A STEP BEHIND

A large U.S. trial court managing substantial caseloads across multiple courthouse locations had a reporting problem: Leadership was making workload decisions using data that was already out of date by the time anyone saw it. Staff ran reports directly out of the court's case management system, saved the output, and refreshed Power BI dashboards manually.

Most reports refreshed monthly, and the fastest any report could realistically be updated was once every two weeks. The underlying data continued changing in the meantime, leaving leadership with a static picture of a court system that wasn't standing still.

The court engaged Resultant to build an enterprise data warehouse that could automate reporting and bring more of the court's data together in one place. Our previous court data modernization work gave the team a head start, with existing court data models and other components serving as accelerators.

BUILDING ONE SOURCE FOR COURT DATA

We built the court's data warehouse on Snowflake, with WhereScape RED automating the build across development, test, and production environments. A medallion architecture moves data through three stages. Raw source data loads into the Bronze layer, is cleaned and standardized in the Silver layer, and is organized for reporting and analysis in the Gold layer. Power BI connects directly to the Gold layer, giving users access to business-ready data for dashboards and analytics.

We implemented the warehouse incrementally, beginning with case filings, dispositions, and hearings and expanding the platform over subsequent phases. Finance and HR information came next, followed by criminal charges, events, judgments, benefits, and case party data. We reused proven components from previous court implementations while developing additional components that can accelerate future court modernization work.



How Orange County Courts' **Data Modernization** Became a **Benchmark of Judicial Innovation**

With special guest Darren Dang



IMPROVING REPORTING TIMELINES FROM WEEKS TO MINUTES

Each subject area refreshes daily in Snowflake. Ad hoc requests for filings by case type, location, time frame, or other criteria that once required staff to pull together information manually can now be answered in minutes, even when a question depends on multiple types of court data.

Murder trials, for example, are among the court's most resource-intensive cases. Understanding how that workload is distributed requires knowing where pending murder trials are concentrated. That analysis requires both charge data to identify murder cases and hearing data to determine which have trials scheduled in the future. Before the warehouse, producing that analysis would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible. Now the analytics team can answer that kind of question quickly and give leadership a much clearer picture of the workload.

The warehouse has opened other kinds of analysis as well. When the court audits whether arraignments occur within statutory deadlines, the analytics team can now easily combine hearing information with arrest-date data that wasn't readily accessible before the warehouse.

A change in state law created another recurring reporting need: a new type of court was created, and the analytics team needed to identify cases associated with specific charges to determine appropriate court staffing levels. The analytics team previously relied on a cumbersome process that involved converting and combining PDFs. With charge-level data available in Snowflake, the team can now identify those cases directly through a single query.

REPORTING TURNAROUND IMPROVED FROM



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TURNING WORKLOAD DATA INTO COURTROOM DECISIONS

The clearest impact of the warehouse shows up in the way the court now manages judicial workload.



DAILY CASELOAD VISIBILITY

A daily Active Cases with Future Hearings report shows the number of pending cases assigned to each department. Court leadership can see when a department is out of balance, then make adjustments to bring the caseload back in line. The data has also informed larger capacity decisions, helping leadership identify where the workload justified adding courtroom capacity and where existing capacity could be reduced or redistributed.



MODEL WORKLOAD SHIFTS

The analytics team can model proposed changes before they happen, showing leadership what caseloads would look like if a particular group of cases moved from one department or location to another.



GREATER ANALYSIS WITHOUT ADDING STAFF

The faster turnaround has also changed the demand for the analytics team's work. As leadership has seen how quickly the team can answer detailed questions, more requests have followed. The team now produces substantially more analysis without adding staff.



With the warehouse in place, the court has moved from reports that could be weeks old to a daily view of the work moving through its courtrooms. **That visibility gives court leadership a practical way to test assumptions, respond to changing caseloads, and put judicial capacity where the data shows it's needed.**