

Nationwide Contracts Can Be Sound Way to Buy For Federal Judiciary

The federal judiciary realizes considerable savings by having its Administrative Office negotiate and manage nationwide contracts for products and services commonly used by courts nationwide.

Information technology equipment and services present one major area for nationwide contracts, according to the Procurement Management Division within the AO's Office of Internal Services. In addition, courts can realize major savings by obtaining a variety of products and services through various national contracts.

Contracts currently are in place for court purchasing in the following areas:

- Desktop and laptop PCs
- Local area network products and services
- Data management software and related services
- Judiciary multiple award support services for information technology.
- Courtroom technology design and installation services
- Urinalysis testing services
- Home confinement services
- Slip opinion services
- Computer-assisted legal research service
- Bankruptcy Noticing Center

In all instances, the Procurement Management Division works with an AO program office to develop a formal request for proposal with specifications that only a program expert could define.

Nationwide contracts can provide quantity discounts and lower administrative costs. Standardized requirements also can be met most efficiently with group purchasing.