

**ZETECH UNIVERSITY**

**SUBORDINATE COURTS CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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**ADMISSION NO: BSCIT-05-0137/2020**

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**A project proposal submitted to the department of Information Technology and Engineering for the partial fulfilment of the award in Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at Zetech University**

**04/01/2023**

**Declaration**

I declare that this research project on Judiciary Case Management System is my own original work. This work should not be edited, copyrighted, republished or any part of this publication without the permission or consent of the author. This work has never been submitted to this University or any other institution for the award of a Diploma, Degree, Master or PhD for examination and academic purposes.

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This research has been submitted to Zetech University for examination with my approval as Supervisor.

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**ABSTRACT**

In many global justice systems, access to justice is a major concern. The key role of technology in legal systems is to be a potential catalyst for access to justice, particularly in terms of enhancing the justice sector. Registration, case identification and case tracking are significant duties related to court operations.

The purpose of the Judiciary Case Management System is to record and keep track of cases, investigations or incidents that require action or resolution.

Cases back in the day used to be documented manually on paper and this led to having huge loads of paperwork and it was very cumbersome. Even today some courts still use the old system of recording cases.

The Judiciary cases management system is supposed to provide real-time status on cases whether they are pending or not, case ID, record the type of cases etc. All of that information is stored in a secure database. The system is supposed to be user-friendly, fast and cost-effective

From the information collected on cases, analysis can be done. The system will keep track of new crimes, who committed them, and the results of ongoing investigations, which will free up the judge's time and lessen their workload.

**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background Information**

The Judiciary is a branch of the government that is responsible for its legal systems and that consists of all the judges in its court of law. Under Chapter 10, Article 159 of the Constitution of Kenya. It is established as the independent custodian of justice in Kenya. Its main or primary objective is to exercise the judicial authority given to it, by the people of Kenya**.** Under the Judiciary, there are courts that are governed and controlled by judges who preside over different cases and lawyers who partake in defending their clients. A lot of paperwork is done before a case is presented in a court and that is where the Judiciary Case Management System comes into use.

The Judiciary ensures that the laws are upheld by the citizens. They work to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms as envisioned in the Constitution. The courts are divided into a hierarchy structure starting from the highest which is the Supreme Court to Kadhi’s court which is the lowest.

With the occurrence of Information Communication Technology (ICT). The promotion of justice has been improved greatly. With the possibility to focus on the technical advancement of people who are aware of their rights and obligations and who have a high degree of information technology literacy, opportunities and problems have emerged. ICT has provided management and operational support allowing courts to more effectively manage the magnitude and complexity of their growing caseloads. If ICT is properly used, it can be a significant tool to improve transparency, efficiency and the standards of services provided by courts.

Managing records is an important aspect and function in courts. Among the places where Records management is crucial and serves as the foundation for all other tasks, the justice system is strengthened. It has been noted that among other difficulties, the Judiciary has a significant difficulty of imposition caused by inappropriate placement, loss and harm. Considering this issue, Due to the difficulties with the manual methods, it has been challenging to find justice in this crucial government branch, or else there has been a substantial delay in the process of acquiring paperwork. This is the rationale behind why there should be significant interest in automating the court system.

The courts have a lot of paperwork. The system that I am going to create will record new crimes, ease the process of investigation and reduce the judge’s work during the trial

* 1. **Problem Statement**

Records and information management have been gaining popularity and recognition from the public sector around the world as governments throughout the world use information and communication technology to manage the administration of their corporate records. The current file management system is an e-filling website and requires a person to only submit the case document. This was developed back in 2020 during the Covid pandemic because cases could not be handled physically. It was launched on 1st July 2020 (Victor, 2020). Sometimes the files being submitted can be large and it can be tiresome for Judges to read and remember all of the details. I thought to myself, what if I was to create a system that breaks down some of the highlighting details in a document and send it to the judge which would make things easier. The judge would have an overview of the case before even getting to the actual case.

* 1. **Proposed Solution**

This research seeks to develop a case management system to break down important parts of a case document which would reduce the time spent on hearings. Furthermore, the current file system will be improved for better judicial services and help judges to administer justice fairly as per the regulations of law.

* 1. **Objectives**

**1.4.1 Main Objective**

The main objective is to develop and implement an efficient case management system in Kenyan Courts.

**1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

1. To generate a system that is easy to operate.

2. To generate proper schedules for court cases

3. To create a database to store, manage and back up case files and details.

4. To generate reports of court cases for all parties involved.

* 1. **Justification**

The reason why I am generating a case management system is because of the growing corruption in the country. This system will be highly beneficial and advantageous to judges particularly when a case requires prior historical references from other judgements. The system will be of advantage to court personnel and administrators by pointing out the deficiencies in the manual system by users. Clients will not complain about missing files because all of their information will be stored in a database. Court cases will be planned out by the system automatically and hearings will take a shorter time. Furthermore, the project will provide other researchers with ample information to create more applicable or sophisticated programs or enhancements.

* 1. **Scope**

This project is based on developing a graphical user interface using python to automate the case management system. It is focused on recording case details to help judges and clerks in the subordinate courts in presiding over cases.

* + 1. **Limitations of the proposed system**

1. The training cost. The employees have to be trained on how to use the system which will cost the judiciary both time and money.
2. Maintenance cost**.** The system will require modifications, upgrades and installation which will be costly but the results will be a worthwhile undertaking.
3. Incompatibility with the primary system.

**CHAPTER TWO**

* 1. **Introduction**

The use of a case management system refers to the use of technology in the administration of justice. It aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the legal system by automating various processes, including case tracking and effective scheduling. This literature review will provide an overview of the theoretical and empirical studies related to the case management system, including a review of the conceptual framework, the hypothesized variables and a critique of the existing literature.

* 1. **Theoretical review**

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the use of JCMS in courts. Studies have shown that the integration of technology in courts has improved the speed and accuracy of the case managing process, leading to increased efficiency and effectiveness in the court system (Asghar, 2018).

Another important aspect of the case management system is the use of best practices and evidence-based decision-making. This involves the use of data and research to inform the development of JCMS and to evaluate their effectiveness. For example, research has shown that the use of evidence-based decision-making can improve the speed and accuracy of case processing and reduce the risk of errors and delays (Monika, 2020).

One of the key components of JCMS is the use of technology, such as case management software and other tools, which can improve the speed and accuracy of case processing. For example, automating routine tasks, tracking case deadlines, and reducing the risk of errors and delays. Other services such as e-filing save time and resources and make virtual proceedings possible. The study shows that successful implementation of the JCMS requires careful planning, adequate training and between the court and users (Gilbert, 2020).

* 1. **Critique of the existing system.**

The existing literature on JCMS has provided valuable insights into the impact of technology on-court performance. However, there is a need for further research to address the gaps in the current knowledge base. In particular, there is a need for studies that examine the long-term impact of JCMS on-court performance and the sustainability of the technology over time. There is also a need for research on the integration of JCMS with other court systems and the impact of this on court performance.

Additionally, more research needs to be done on the potential risks and challenges associated with the JCMS. While the literature provides some insights into the potential benefits of JCMS, there is limited research on the potential risks and challenges that need to be addressed. This limits our understanding of the full impact of JCMS on the justice system.

**2.0 Research gaps**

Despite the significant progress made in the area of JCMS, there are still gaps in the existing literature. There is a need for further research on the long-term impact of JCMS on court performance and the sustainability of the technology over time, as well as the integration of JCMS and other court systems.

**2.1 Summary**

In conclusion, the literature review provides an overview of the recent studies on JCMS and its impact on-court performance. The review highlights the importance of having a technology-driven solution in courts, careful planning and training in the successful implementation of the JCMS. Future research can focus on addressing the research gaps to further contribute on the understanding of the long-term impact of JCMS.

**CHAPTER 3**

**SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND DESIGN**

**2.2 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the analysis and design of the Subordinates’ Case Management System. This chapter is a critical phase in the project as it provides an in-depth understanding of the system requirements, analysis of collected data, and development of the system specifications. The purpose of the chapter is to outline the approach, methodology, and tools used in the systems development process.

**2.3 System Development Methodology**

The methodology used is water-fall development. The methodology used is a structured approach to creating, modifying, maintaining, and managing a software system. The goal of the development methodology is to improve the efficiency, consistency and quality of the software while ensuring the software meets the user’s needs.

The Systems Development Methodology (SDM) is a framework used to develop and manage software systems. It provides a structured and systematic approach to software development, covering all aspects of the development process from planning to maintenance.

The Waterfall model is a linear and sequential approach to software development. The model is divided into several phases, and each phase must be completed before the next one can begin. The phases include requirements gathering, analysis, design, implementation, testing, deployment and maintenance. Each phase has its own set of deliverables and the outputs of one phase serve as the inputs for the next.

This model is used in the research to ensure that the project is completed systematically and organised.

**2.4 Feasibility Study**

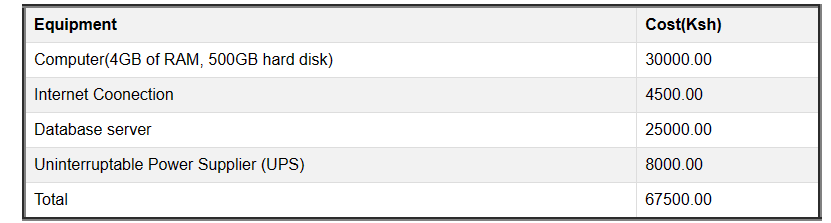
A feasibility study was done on the following areas to assess the viability of the project:

**2.4.1 Technical feasibility**

The technical feasibility of the court system will depend on the availability of the necessary hardware and software. The system will require a computer with a minimum of 4GB of RAM, 500GB hard disk, and a processor speed of at least 2.0GHz. The system will also require the installation of the Python programming language, the Tkinter graphical user interface, and a database management system like MySQL. These requirements are easily met by most modern computers.

**2.4.2 Economic feasibility**

The economic feasibility assessment involved examining the costs and benefits of the project. This included a review of the potential financial benefits of the system, as well as the costs associated with its development, implementation, and maintenance. The costs of developing and implementing the system, including hardware and software, were estimated at ksh.67500.



**2.4.3 Operational feasibility**

The operational feasibility assessment involved evaluating whether the system can be integrated into the existing business operations and whether it is acceptable to the stakeholders. It was determined that the system would be easily integrated into existing workflows and that users would be able to quickly learn and use the system. Training and support will be offered to users during the transition period.

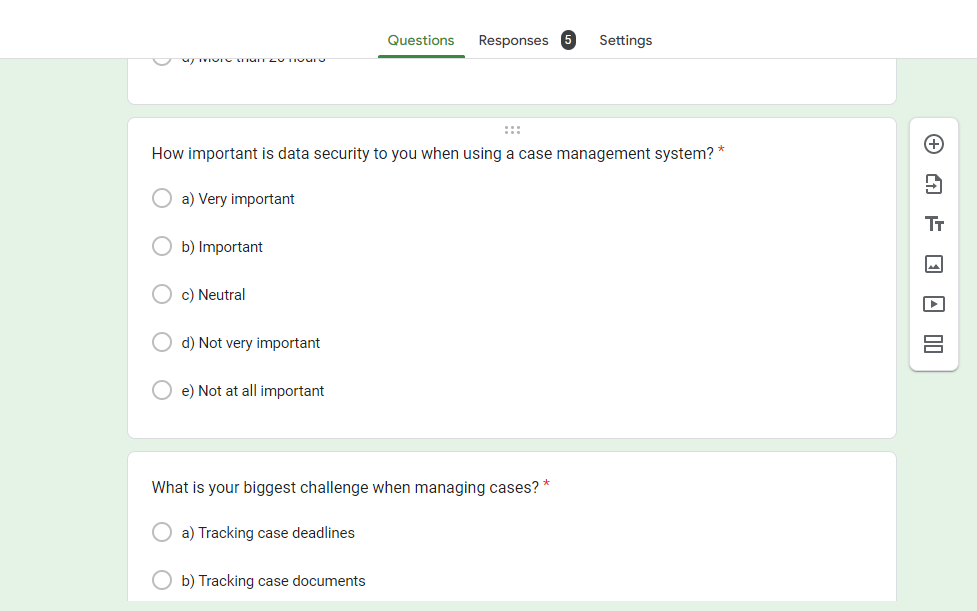
**Figure 1: Waterfall model**



**2.5 Data Collection**

A questionnaire was formulated and administered to a group of 5 clerks and all of them responded to the questionnaire. The number of clerks would have been higher but each court has very few of them. I chose to use a questionnaire because it would be easy for me to analyze the data and my responders would remain anonymous and they would be likely to provide honest answers. Some of the questions that were in the questionnaire are: how much time do they spend handling cases on a typical week, and what is their biggest challenge when it comes to handling cases?

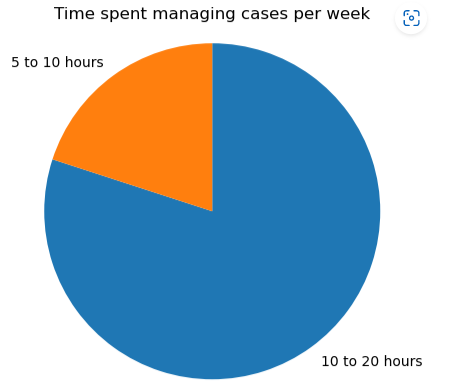
**Figure 2: Questionnaire form**



**2.6 Data and System Analysis.**

I downloaded the data from google docs as a csv file and used jupyter notebooks for the data analysis. Just by looking at the data using visual assessment. All the clerks handle 5 to 10 cases in a week. From the pie chart below, it is clear that most of the clerks spend 10 to 20 hours on their cases.

**Figure 3: Pie Chart**



All the clerks agreed that their current system does experience delays sometimes and the biggest challenge that they are experiencing is tracking case deadlines.

**Figure 4: Bar Chart**



From the data obtained, a majority of the people using the current system are unsatisfied.

**2.7 System Requirements**

**2.7.1 Functional requirements**

The system should be able to add create, updateand delete user accounts from the database. An admin panel will be made for this function. The users will be able to also add, update and delete cases

The system will have a mechanism for assigning judges cases and informing them of the cases their supposed to handle

A mechanism for tracking case deadlines and status will be implemented. Furthermore, to avoid unauthorized entry, the system must include a method of authentication.

The system should allow users to search for cases based on different criteria such as case number, defendant name, and case type.

**2.8 Functions of the Application**

The Subordinates Court Case Management system will be used by a clerk to record case details of a particular client, the name, Judge in charge of that case, type of case, lawyer or attorney in charge of that case, the status of the case, the date that it was recorded and whether any evidence has been presented. This information will be submitted and recorded in a database.

An email will be sent to the judge to inform him/her of the case details and when to appear in court for the hearing. The application will be able to track cases from the beginning to the end. A mechanism shall be implemented to assign cases to judges. The clerk will also be able to create, update and delete case files. Furthermore, they will be an admin panel for adding users.

The system will have an authentication mechanism to prevent unauthorized from accessing the interface.

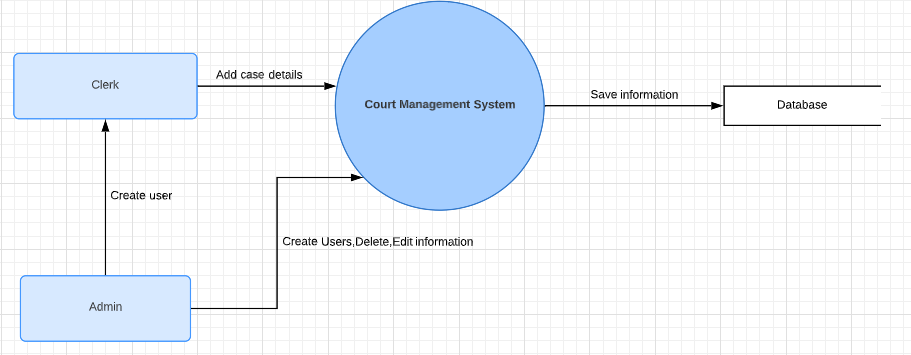
**DESIGN**

**2.9 System design**

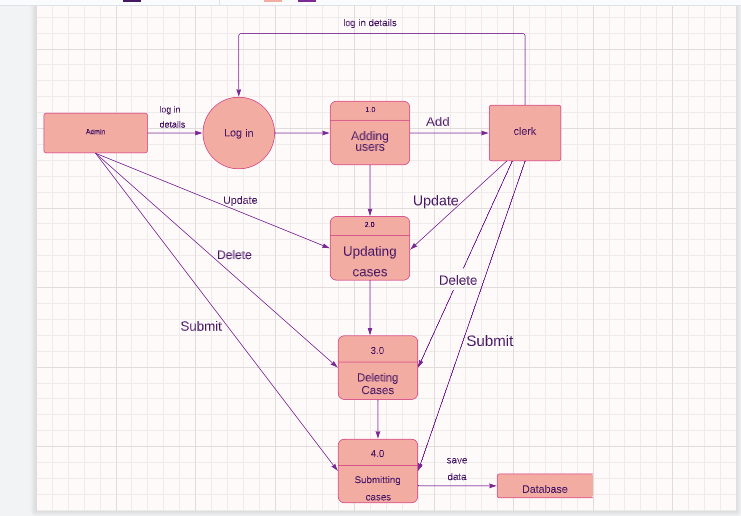
**2.9.1 Logical design**

The court’s management system is supposed to help clerks with recording cases in an efficient way that will help the judge with administering justice during court trials. The interface will be made using python specifically the Tkinter module and the database used will be MySQL. The diagrams below depict how the users will interact with the system and how the information will flow.

Figure 2 shows the logical flow of data in the system.

**Figure 5: DFD level 0**

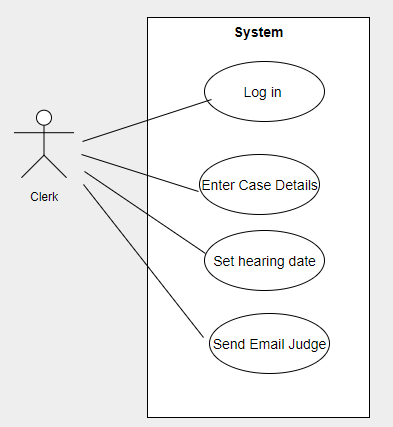
**Figure 6: DFD level 1**

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**2.9.2 Use case**

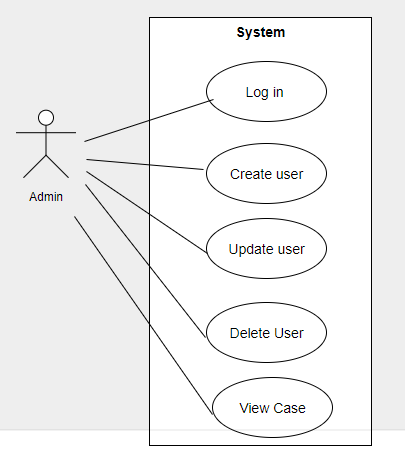
The court clerk in charge of a specific working desk will serve as the user of the system. They will enter the client’s information such as their name, and contacts, as well as the date and time of the recording. Additionally, they will enter the details of the case. Finally, they will set a hearing date for the case. The clerk must provide a password for authentication before being allowed to enter any details into the system.

**Figure 7: Clerk use case Diagram**



An administrator will oversee tasks like adding, deleting creating updating users. Also adding cases to the database. The administrator will be of great use and help when adding new judges and clerks into the system. The admin can also log in to the main interface to delete cases, update or delete

**Figure 8: Admin Use Case**



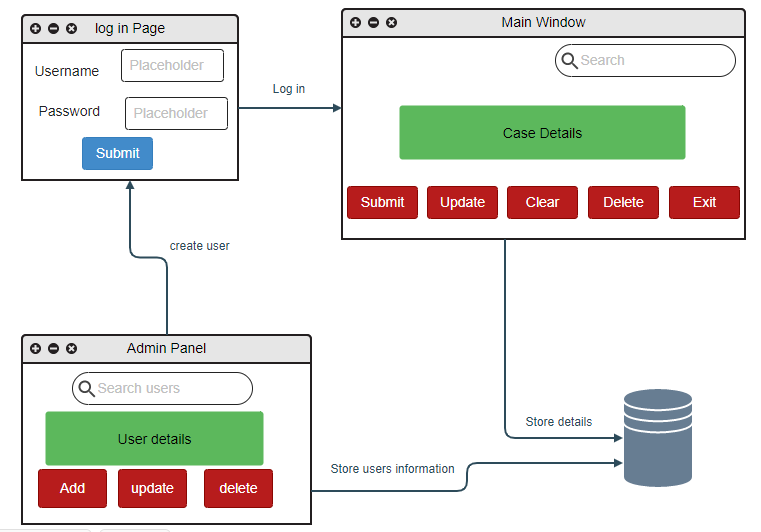
**2.9.2 Physical design**

The physical design of the court management system using Tkinter involves creating a user-friendly interface that enables users to interact with the software system. This interface should be intuitive and easy to navigate, allowing users to quickly access the different features and functions of the system.

To achieve these objectives, the physical design will be developed using a modular approach. This approach involves dividing the system into smaller components or modules, each of which performs a specific function. Each module will be developed separately, using Tkinter to create the necessary graphical components and linking them together to create the complete system

The physical design depicts how the court management system will look and I used mock-up forms for that depiction.

**Figure 9: Physical design**



**3.0 System Architecture**

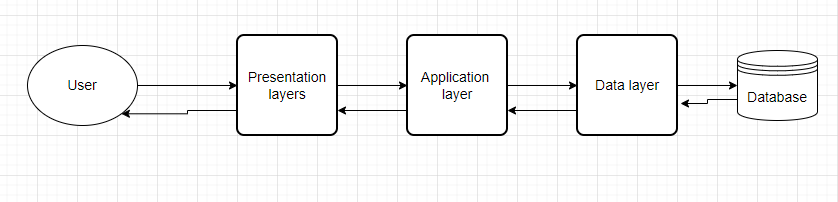
The presentation layer consists of the widgets and controls that the user interacts with such as buttons, this is the main interface with that the user will be interacting. For example, if a user clicks on a button to search for a case, the presentation layer would call a method in the application layer to execute the search and retrieve the results to display in the UI.

The second layer is the application layer, which contains the system's business logic. This layer defines rules and processes for managing judicial cases, such as creating new cases, scheduling a hearing or updating cases. The application layer interacts with the presentation layer to receive user input and display output and also communicates with the data access layer to retrieve and store data. For example, when a user submits a form to create a new case, the application layer would validate the input and then call a method in the data access layer to store the case information in the database.

The data access layer is responsible for retrieving and storing data. This layer interacts with the application layer to receive and provide data and interacts with the database layer to store and retrieve data from the database. In Tkinter, the data access layer might use Python's built-in SQL connector module to interact with a MySQL database. For example, when the application layer needs to retrieve a list of cases for a specific judge, it would call a method in the data access layer to execute an SQL query and return the results.

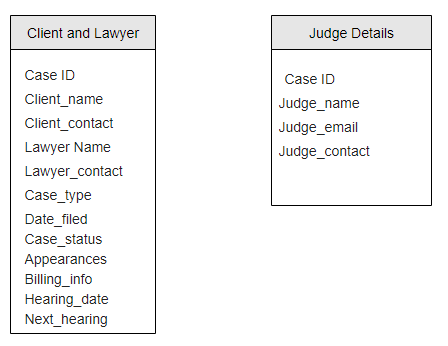
The database layer includes the DBMS used to store and manage the data for the court system. The database layer communicates with the data access layer to provide data storage and retrieval capabilities. For example, when the data access layer needs to store case information in the database, it would execute an SQL INSERT statement to add the data to the appropriate table.

**Figure 10: System Architecture**

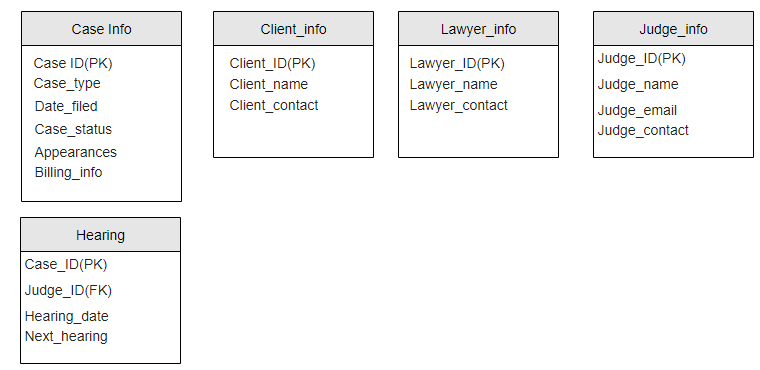
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**3.1 Normalized Database**

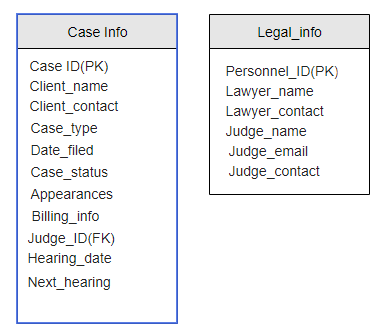
**Figure 11: Unnormalized form**



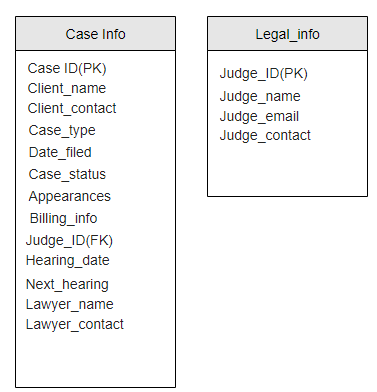
**Figure 12: First Normal Form**

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**Figure 13: Second Normal Form**



**Figure 14: Third Normal Form**



**3.2 Database Design**