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**John G. Heyburn II**  
**FAS4T USER FORUM**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
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I appreciate the opportunity to speak to so many in the court community about your role in the management and stewardship of public funds. On behalf of the Budget Committee and many others in the judiciary I thank you for your commitment to those goals, as evidenced by your attendance here.

I also thank Cam Burke and his staff for taking the lead in organizing this conference; the Administrative Office and the Office of Finance and Budget for supporting it.

My own court, the Western District of Kentucky, was one of the original four beta courts. I commend you for following in our footsteps—hopefully your path will be made a little easier by our efforts—and helping us toward the time when Fas4t is implemented throughout the judiciary.

The focal point of my remarks today is the relationship between the budget process, decentralized management of the budget and the Fas4t system. Fas4t and decentralized budgeting go hand-in-hand. Both are crucial parts of our budget operation. As Chief Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, I can see the importance of Fas4t to good financial management at the individual court level and as a key to the decentralized process. As Chair of the Budget Committee, I see Fas4t helping to achieve better national oversight of appropriated funds.

Without any fear of overstating it, I vouch that budget decentralization is the cornerstone of our administrative and political budget strategy. It is vital to securing more financial resources. It is the foundation for achieving good financial management at the local court level.