



State of Kansas

## Office of Judicial Administration

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March 14, 2016

Joint Committee on Information Technology

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### **Electronic Filing**

#### **District Courts**

The statewide district court implementation continues according to the project plan submitted to the Kansas Information Technology Office. Currently there are 92 district courts representing 27 judicial districts using the e-filing system. The remaining courts will be installed by the end of the current fiscal year.

Currently, there are over 4,300 attorneys registered to use the e-filing system. The system allows for a single registration permitting attorneys to file in any installed court. Filers select the type of case they are filing and upload their documents to be electronically submitted to the court. File stamped electronic copies of all documents filed on the case, both paper filed and electronically filed, are available to attorneys of record for viewing and download.

There are now 23 counties in eight judicial districts that have mandated electronic filing. This includes Douglas County that has required mandatory e-filing for over a year. An additional nine counties will mandate electronic filing by July of this year.

#### **Appellate Courts**

After a successful period of elective use of the e-filing system, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court started mandatory e-filing in November 2015. There has been a steady increase in the number of electronic submissions filed with the Appellate Clerk's office. Last month, over 2,800 electronically filed documents were processed.

#### **Training**

Training opportunities exist for both district and appellate court filers. There are two live web-based training sessions held each month that filers may register to attend. In addition there

are a number of instructional videos available on the Judicial Branch website. Filer outreach is ongoing via presentations at various organization conferences and bar meetings across the state. When a filer registers to use the system, a welcome e-mail is sent containing a number of informative documents and information pertaining to the many training opportunities available.

### **eCourt**

The eCourt project is working toward finding a replacement for the legacy district court case management system (FullCourt). The Kansas eCourt system, when fully implemented, will provide some of the most frequently requested court services from any computer with an Internet connection, at any time. Based on an individual's authorization, consumers and the legal community will have day and night access to:

- documents and case records,
- court information and court calendars, and
- case-related filing and payment services.

The Kansas eCourt system would also be a foundation that we are able to build upon in the future. For example, if the courts were to install a statewide videoconferencing system, it would be integrated into the eCourt system that could be accessed through the eCourt portal.

The eCourt governance structure consists of the Steering Committee and various subcommittees. The Steering Committee is chaired by Justice Biles and co-chaired by Justice Stegall. The Steering Committee provides oversight, reviews the work of the subcommittees, and makes project recommendations for approval by the Supreme Court.

The Subcommittees are:

**Infrastructure** – tasked with making recommendations on technical requirements. Recommendations will be made concerning the following topics.

Cloud vs. on site hosting  
Minimum technical requirements

**Requirements** – tasked with developing functional requirements for an RFP. This will include functionality involving the following topics.

Case processing  
Judge tools  
Workshare functional requirements

**Rules** – tasked with making recommendations regarding rules changes and legislation for the new technical environment. Topics for review include the following.

Workshare considerations  
Changes for standardized case processing

The infrastructure subcommittee is gathering technical information from the district courts in order to make recommendations regarding the direction of infrastructure needed for the project.

The requirements subcommittee is gathering information from the original FullCourt case management request for proposal to review functional requirements that will apply to the new case management system.

Later this month, informational sessions will be conducted with software vendors in order to assist the subcommittees in developing the Request for Proposal for the eCourt system.