

Session Descriptions

Radical reengineering of the judicial branch

This session explores the impact of significant budget reductions on the judicial branch, new approaches to organizing the work of the courts, and how technology can facilitate a leaner court organization. Attendees learn how technology could enable courts to avoid the longer case processing times and lack of attention to individual cases that drastic budget cuts often cause. The presentation also outlines the future of traditional staffing models, along with the possibility for judicial branches to outsource work to administrative agencies, often reducing cost significantly.

Introduction to Court Technology Framework

This session introduces attendees to the 'Court Technology Framework.' This resource is being developed by the National Center for State Courts' Conference of State Court Administrators and National Association for Court Management Joint Technology Committee. The 'framework' is intended to be a tool, for both technologists and court managers, to provide a context and basis for considering, implementing and utilizing new technological practices for the court community. The session includes an overview and demonstration of the 'framework,' along with the attendees' input on useful ways to apply the standards.

Successful E-Filing: how to improve user acceptance

There are a number of user groups who will interact with your e-filing system, including attorneys, pro se litigants, and court staff, judges, and court administration. Each of the panel members will offer policies and practices that have helped their court to gain user acceptance for e-filing. Discussion will include methods for engaging users, successful services that improve acceptance, and approaches to understanding the needs of the end users.

Electronic document redaction, security, and control

This session focuses on the initial document redaction that the Iowa Judicial Branch has undertaken for the E-Filing and Electronic Document Management System project. Attendees learn about the docket, the documents included in the project, and how the use of security levels can help to protect the case.

Videoconferencing solutions for the courts

Videoconferencing is an evolving technology that offers many potential uses to the courts that implement it. This session informs attendees on methods to adopt videoconferencing, as well as how to maintain acceptable security levels and ways the technology can help cut costs. In addition, the presentation provides ideas for implementation areas, such as inmate visitation, issuing warrants, and first-appearance hearings.

Colorado Knowledge Management Project

Judge Thomas Curry demonstrates Colorado's recent implementation of WestKM™, a knowledge-management tool that indexes shared documents and then integrates those internal resources with West's legal-research tools. Attendees learn how Colorado judges, magistrates, and law clerks are now sharing information internally with minimal training and administration. Judge Curry's case study illustrates the Court Technology Framework, showing how wise technology investments can help courts render high-quality decisions more efficiently.

Developing and using online and video training to save time and money

Drug Treatment Court teams in New York require specialized, targeted training on court implementation and protocol, as well as ongoing updates on topical trends in the treatment community. However, conducting training each time new staff joins a team is costly. To address this issue, the New York State Unified Court System and the Center for Court Innovation developed an online "Treatment Court Education Connection," which allows all drug court team members to participate in training without travel, and on their own schedule. The system is developed using free open-source Learning Management Software used by many educational institutions. This session demonstrates how the training system was built and how it works to save time and money for the courts.

The Electronic Document Courtroom: It isn't an 8 ½ by 11 world anymore (e-Courts East)

This session begins with an explanation of Judge Armstrong's automated system KYCourtsII/BenchPro, which he has used since 2000. The presentation shows how the scheduled criminal cases are prepared by the clerk in the electronic docket for each judge in the Jefferson (Louisville) District Court. Examples include BenchPro, the e-warrant system, and other real-time technologies. This pragmatic implementation of an electronic court environment aims to show attendees the capabilities of modern court systems.

ECourts 2010 electronic docs in courtroom (e-Courts West)

Judge Connie Steinheimer, the Chief Judge for the 2nd District in Washoe County, revisits the Las Vegas demonstration she gave on electronic documents in the courtroom. This continues the presentation on Wiznet from the last E-Courts conference, including examples and practical use explanations. Attendees and interested parties can visit Judge Steinheimer's web page at www.washoecourts.com/index.cfm?page=steinheimer

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and New Media Revolution: What Courts Should Know and Do

New social media tools like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube have now become "viral" and are growing at a rapid rate, due in part to the widespread use of mobile "smart phones." This session examines how this new level of mobile interconnectivity is transforming society, posing both challenges and opportunities for the courts. Attendees examine recent research on issues including judges on Facebook, jurors tweeting, mobile video devices in the gallery, and other New Media topics.

Cool and edgy technology trends

How can we best align court service delivery with the new technological tools and increasingly sophisticated expectations of court users? This session offers mini-presentations on tech topics, including wireless applications, e-signage, e-forms, e-signature pads, applications for Personal Digital Assistants, e-readers, cloud computing, IT consolidation, and social media.

Who knew? Celebrating court inefficiencies!

In January 2009, the Orange County (CA) Superior Court kicked off a reengineering effort aimed at uncovering inefficiencies, helping the Court respond to unprecedented budget cuts. This session outlines their techniques for streamlining everything from day to day operational processes to large scale technology initiatives. Attendees explore how Orange County handled budget cuts while still reducing backlog, in addition to learning methods for beating budget cuts with new ideas.

Partners Making a Difference in Public Safety: The NICS and the Courts

This session provides an overview of the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a computerized system designed to assist in the determination of an individual's eligibility to purchase or possess firearms. The presentation includes a review of the 10 Federal Prohibitions that disqualify a person from purchasing firearms and the NICS Improvement Amendments Act (NIAA). Attendees will also learn how the courts can assist the NICS through information recording and reporting through submitting to the NICS Index.

