U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Courtroom Technology Update Spring 2002

In July of 2001, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims installed technology in its first courtroom, Courtroom 4. This technology gives the court many new capabilities such as electronic evidence presentation and video conferencing.

Lectern

The lectern in Courtroom 4 has many new tools to aid you in electronic evidence presentation. This includes a document camera, connector cable for laptop presentations, and a VCR.

Lectern: Document Camera

At the lectern, there is a document camera which can send images to all of the courtroom monitors. The document camera can handle documents such as paper (letter or legal sized), maps, transparencies, MRI's, or x-rays. The document camera can zoom in to highlight a point of interest.

Lectern: Laptop Connection

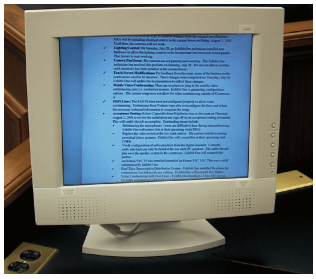
The lectern also has a connector cable which allows attorneys to connect laptops for presentation of electronic evidence. Any program running on the laptop, such as PowerPoint or Presentations, can be displayed on the courtroom monitors. The connector cable uses a standard VGA port.

Lectern: VCR

The lectern has a VCR connected with the monitor system. VHS video evidence can be played, displayed, and annotated on the monitor system.

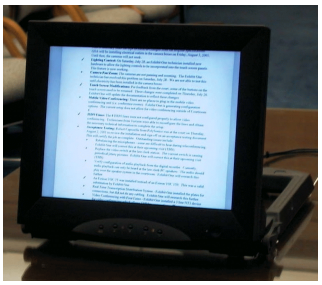
Lectern: Touch Screen

The lectern has a touch screen monitor. Using your finger, an attorney can annotate the electronic evidence which is displayed on the monitors.



Monitors

There are six flat screen monitors in Courtroom 4. There is one for the judge, one for the courtroom deputy, two at the plaintiff table, and two at the defendant table. The monitors are used to view electronic evidence. They are light, flexible, and easy to reposition. They fold flat when not in use to minimize line of sight problems.



Bench: Touch Screen Control

The judge and courtroom deputy have a touch screen control panel on the bench to control the courtroom technology. This includes lighting, audio, video, and cameras. Sound can be muted. The judge or courtroom deputy decide what data source is displayed on the courtroom monitors.

Bench: Network Computers

Network computers have been installed for the judge and courtroom deputy. This allows the judge to access email, network files, legal research programs, and the internet from the bench.

Bench: Digital Printer

A digital printer is available on the bench to print a screen shot of the monitor. Documents are printed in 3½" x 5" format, with or without annotations. Printing evidence on 8 ½" x 11" paper is possible by the judge or courtroom deputy.

Attorney Table: Monitors

Two flat screen monitors are located on each attorney table. Attorneys can see electronic evidence displayed on those monitors.

Attorney Table: Connectors

Attorneys have a VGA connector cable at the table to connect a laptop. The laptop can be used to present electronic evidence. A toggle button is installed to switch between the flat screen monitor and the local laptop. There are auxiliary inputs for S-Video, RCA Composite, and Audio.

Witness Stand: Touch Screen

The witness stand has a touch screen monitor like the lectern. Witnesses can annotate evidence using their finger.

Real Time Transcription

Courtroom 4 is wired to allow for real time transcription. A special request must be worked through your judge.

VTC: Courtroom 4

Video teleconferencing (VTC) is possible in Courtroom 4 due to the installation of three cameras located in two camera boxes. One camera box is on the wall behind the witness and two cameras are in the camera box behind the gallery. Video conferences should be pre-arranged through your judge's chambers.

VTC: Conference Rooms

The court has a mobile video teleconferencing (VTC) unit which can be used in the conference rooms. Video conferences should be pre-arranged through your judge's chambers.

Training

Attorneys must be trained before using the technology in Courtroom 4. These efforts should be coordinated through the judge's chambers and the Clerks Office. To setup group or individual training, contact the Clerks Office at (202) 219-9657.

Requesting Courtroom 4 Technology

You should work with your judge to arrange the use of technology in Courtroom 4.