

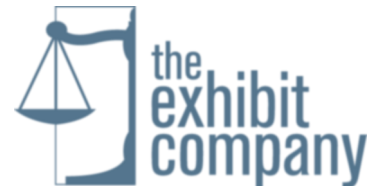


Using Technology in a Courtroom to your Benefit

Hon. Karin Crump

Civil District Judge
250th Civil District Court
Austin, Texas

Slide Design by:



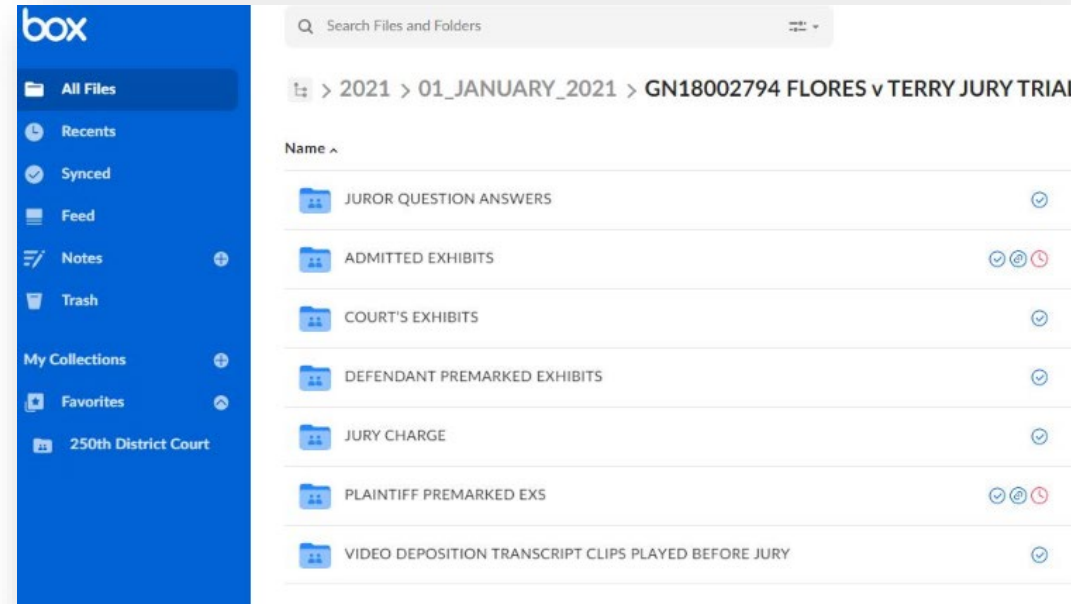


Tech in the Courtroom:

**What the Courts are
Offering Now**

Electronic Exhibits

- Attorneys can share electronic exhibits with each other and the court via a file management system, such as Box, or by email



- Attorneys can then screen share electronic exhibits in the courtroom
- Jury has access to electronic exhibits through Box but likely will use paper exhibits during in person proceedings

Hybrid Trials

(Witness or Party Appears Remotely While Other In Person)



Benefits

- Reduced travel time/costs
- More precise scheduling
- Easier for clients to appear
- Health/safety benefits
- Victim participation
- Avoid work/childcare scheduling issues
- Courthouse space utilization
- Improved access to justice

Hybrid Trials

(Witness or Party Appears Remotely While Other In Person)

Challenges



Challenges Specific to Hybrid Technology

- Reverberating feedback among participants
- Inability to see and hear litigants for those participating remotely
- Courthouse spaces are not designed for hybrid hearings or remote work
- Need for improved technology support

Electronic Submissions of Agreed / Unopposed Orders in Lieu of Hearings



Current Status of Zoom Hearings



- **Courts have become more accessible to certain people through zoom hearings**
- **Attorneys have become familiar with zoom hearings**

Rule Replacing Emergency Rules Related to Remote Court Appearances

Tex. R. Civ. P. 21d

Rule 21d - Appearances at Court Proceedings

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Court proceeding" means an appearance before the court, such as a hearing or trial.
- (2) "Participant" means any party, attorney, witness, court reporter, or juror who participates in a court proceeding.

(b) Participant Method of Appearance.

- (1) Unless the notice of court proceeding states otherwise, a person who participates in a court proceeding does so by physical presence in the courtroom. Upon appropriate notice by a party or the court, a court may allow or require a participant to appear at a court proceeding by videoconference, teleconference, or other available electronic means, except as otherwise provided in (2).

(2) A court must not require:

- (A) a party or lawyer to appear electronically for a court proceeding in which oral testimony is heard, absent good cause or the agreement of the parties; or
- (B) a lawyer, party, or juror to appear electronically for a jury trial, absent the agreement of the parties.

(c) Judge Method of Appearance; Location. A judge may appear at a court proceeding by videoconference, teleconference, or other available electronic means. However, even if appearing electronically, a judge must conduct the court proceeding from a location required by law.

(d) Objection. A party may object to any method of appearance, stating good cause for the objection. The objection must be made within a reasonable time after the party receives notice of the appearance. The court may, but is not required to, conduct a hearing on the objection. Before proceeding by the objected-to method of appearance, the court must rule on the objection and timely communicate the ruling to the parties in a written order or on the record.

(e) Factors. In determining good cause under this rule, the court should consider factors such as:

- (1) case type;
- (2) court proceeding type;
- (3) the number of parties and witnesses;
- (4) the complexity of the legal and factual issues;
- (5) the type of evidence to be submitted, if any;

Tex. R. Civ. P. 21d

Rule 21d - Appearances at Court Proceedings

effective 8/1/2023.

- **Court may allow or require remote appearance of witness with notice by party or the court**
- **Evidentiary hearing: Court cannot require party or lawyer to appear electronically absent good cause**
- **Jury Trial: Court cannot require a lawyer, party, or juror to appear electronically without agreement of the parties**
- **Judge can preside by video or teleconference but must be in courthouse if required by law**
- **Party may object to any method of appearance stating good cause for objection**

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Tex. R. Civ. P. 21d

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- (5) the type of evidence to be submitted, if any;
- (6) technological restrictions such as lack of access to or proficiency in necessary technology;
- (7) travel restrictions such as lack of transportation, distance, or inability to take off work;
- (8) whether a method of appearance is best suited to provide necessary language access services for a person with limited English proficiency or accommodations for a person with a disability; and
- (9) any previous abuse of a method of appearance.



New Travis County Civil and Family Courts

Tech in the Future Courtroom

Types of Technology That Could Be Incorporated Into Courtrooms



Integrated Cameras

- One to frame the judge or the witness
- One to point to the attorney tables or the podium sharing



Enhanced Audio

- State-of-the-art microphones placed optimally
- Noise Cancelling Apps (i.e., Krisp App) for Zoom hearings / hybrid witness)



Access to Screens for All

- Screens that can be viewed from every angle of the courtroom



Modern Evidence Presentation

- High quality document camera
- Laptops
- HDMI cables for attorneys to use their own laptops



Wireless Presentation Options

- Such as AirPlay or AirMedia that allow for wireless screen sharing

Federal Courthouse San Antonio, Tx



Designed with the Future in Mind



View of new courtroom from gallery to the bench.

Integrated Cameras



Integrated Cameras

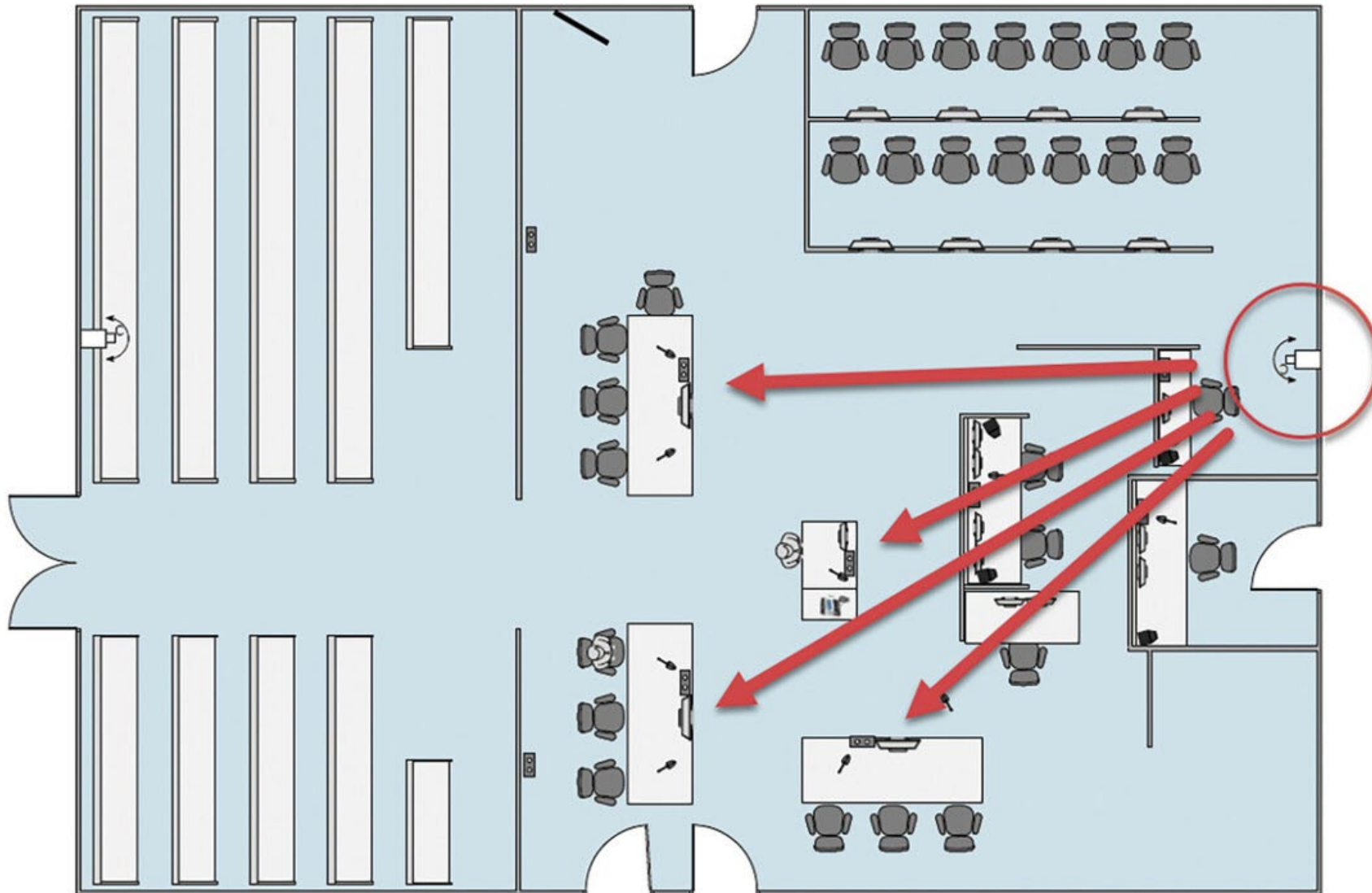


Diagram showing angles associated with the camera behind the witness stand

State-of-the-Art Audio

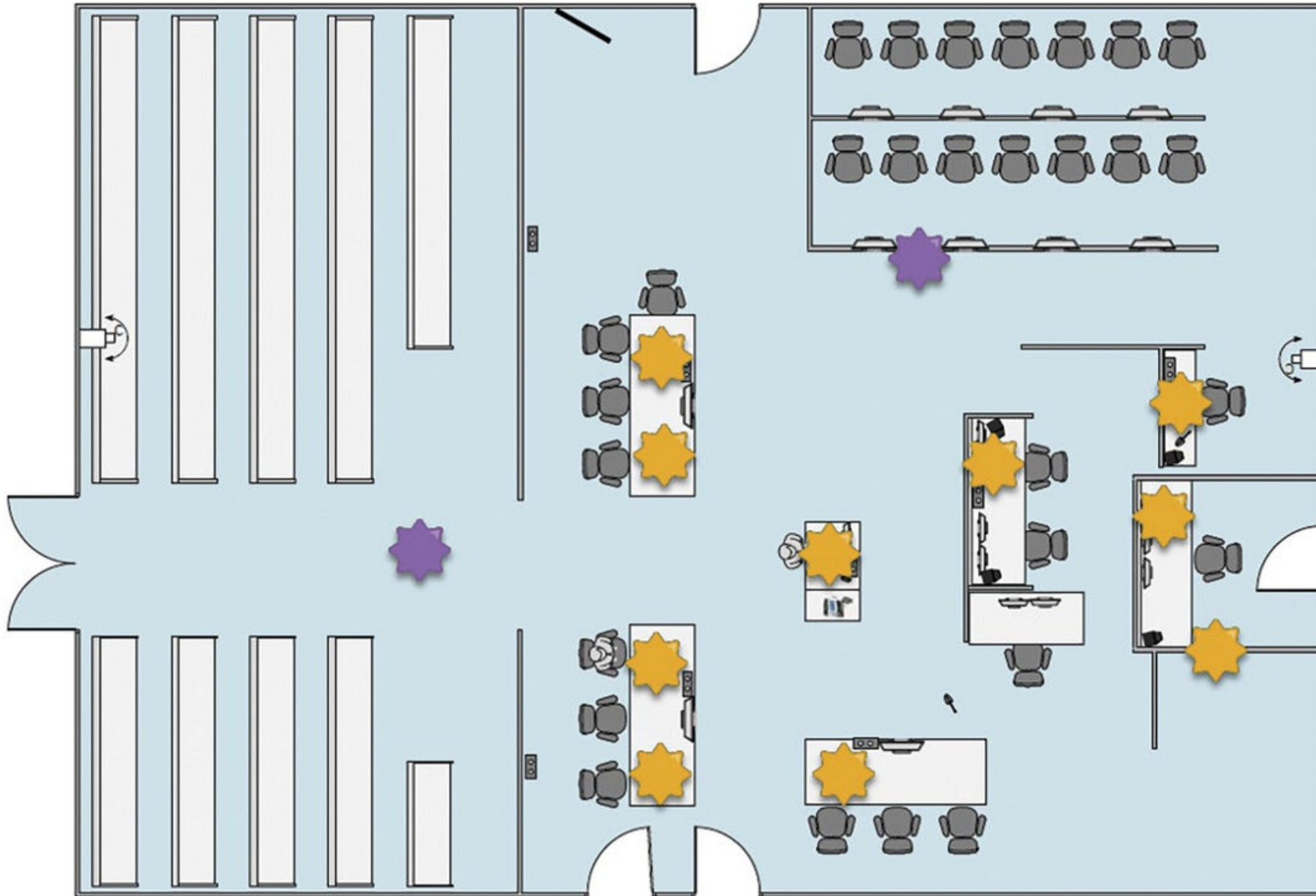


Diagram of microphone locations (gold and purple indicators)

State-of-the-Art Audio



View of the witness stand with microphone, speaker, and evidence presentation screen

Access to Video for All

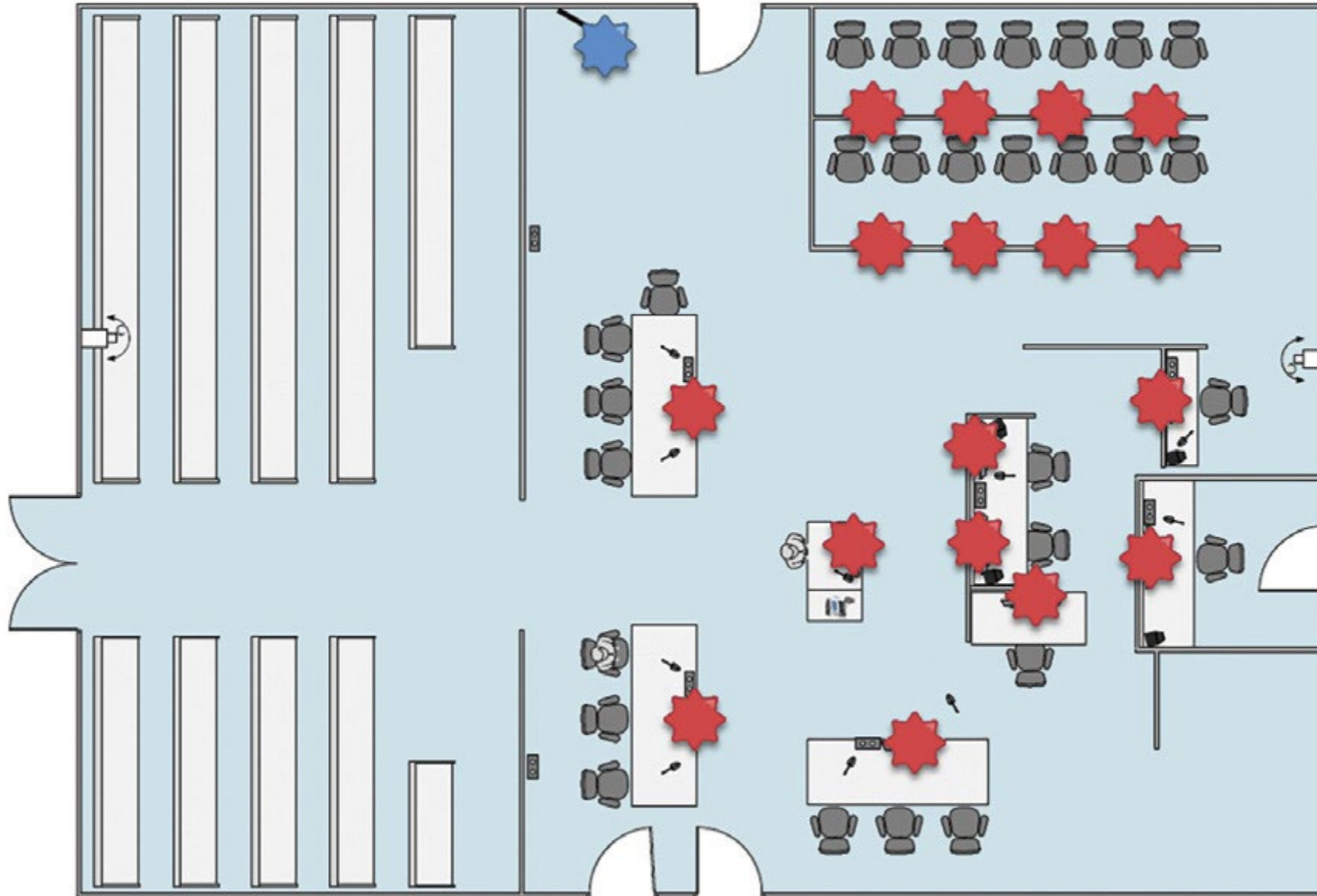


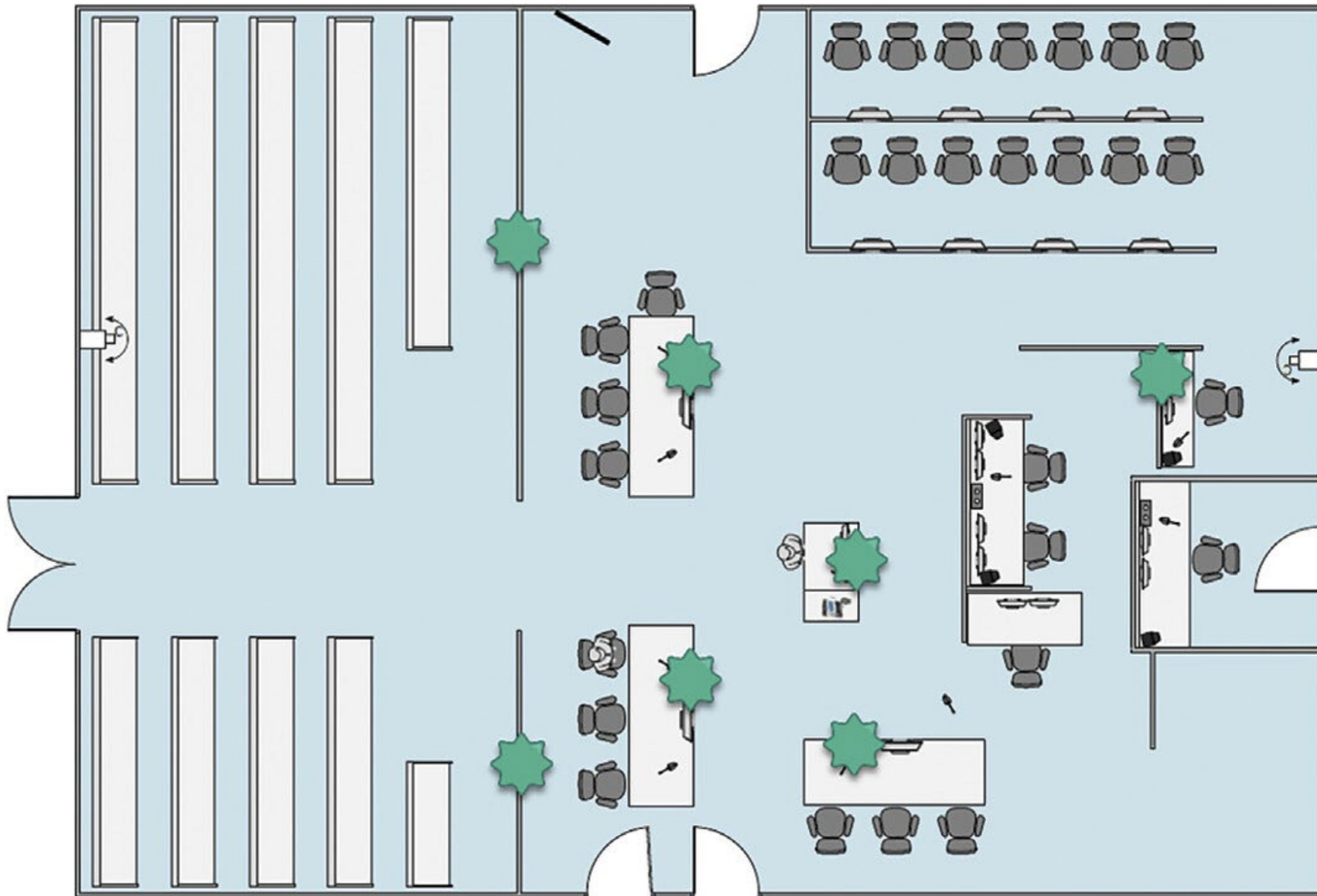
Diagram showing screen locations (red and blue indicators)

Access to Video for All



View of jury box with speakers and movable screens

Wireless Presentation Option



Courtroom diagram with evidence inputs in the room. Note the two litigation support locations by the gallery rail.

Summary of all Technology Available in Each Courtroom

Cameras

- One facing the judge and witness
- One facing attorneys and parties
- Views are controlled by the courtroom deputy or judge if preferred

Microphone

- Standard coverage plus options at jury rail and gallery
- Wireless handheld and lavalier

Video

- Eight screens in the jury box
- Screens at attorney tables
- Screens at lower and upper bench
- Screen at witness stand
- Large screen for gallery
- Picture in picture available

Inputs

- Connections at all attorney locations
- Connection at witness stand
- Connection at litigation support locations
- Document camera
- Wireless sharing

Other

- Controls at courtroom deputy station and judge
- White noise
- Integrated voice conferencing and video conferencing (zoom)
- Standard interpreter, FTR, etc.

State Courts



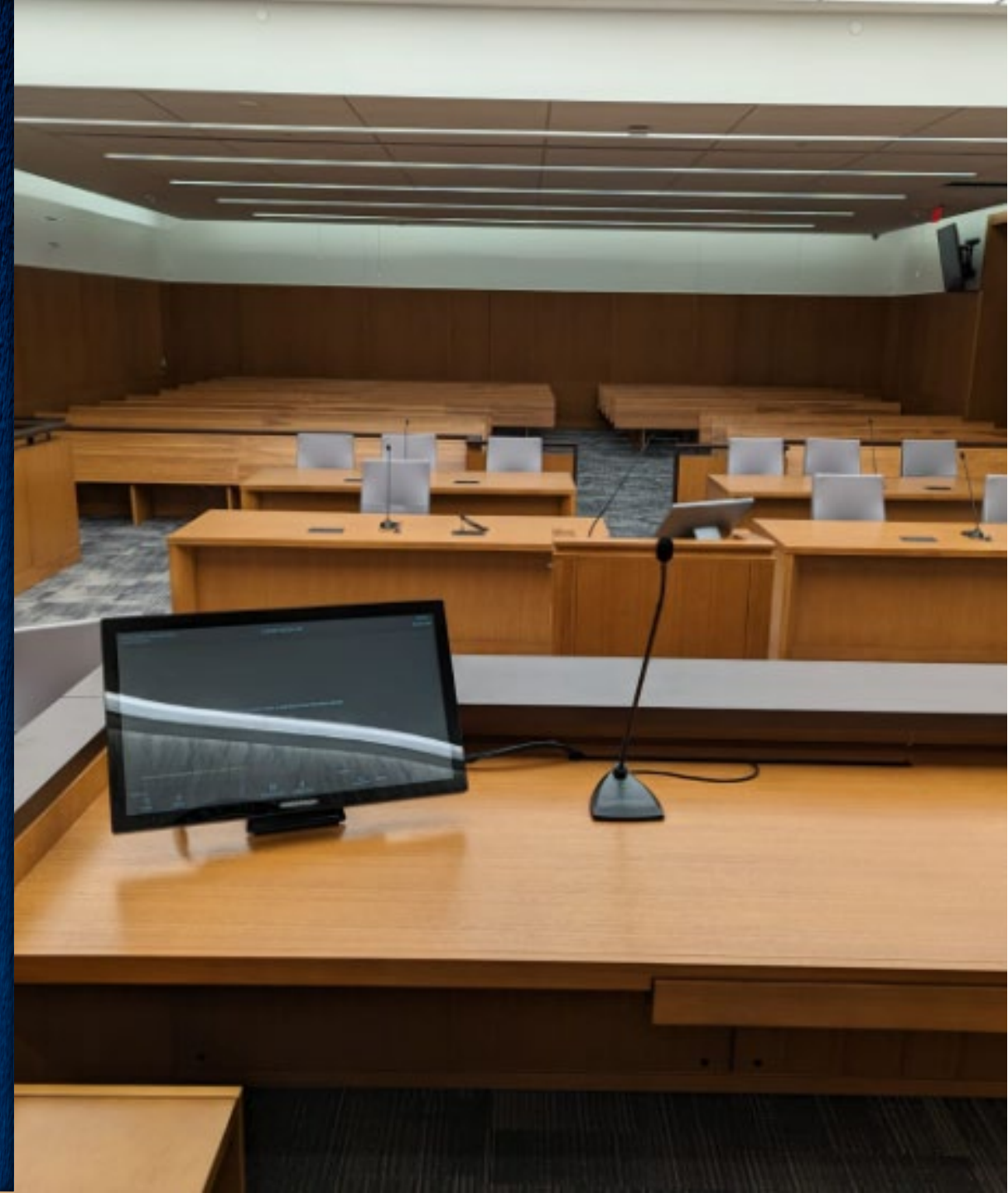
Travis County Civil and Family Courts Austin, Tx

State-of-the-art technology includes Zoom stations which integrate courtroom cameras for remote witness testimony and hybrid hearings.



Bench AV “control center” with ability to:

- Adjust lighting/AC
- Control white noise “Sidebar Mode”
- Select who is “live” to present
- Override all AV in the room





Clerk/JEA Location:

- Clerks/JEA/Court Reporter location has an additional, mobile AV controller for use in a more dynamic way if needed

High Tech Attorney Tables

- Dedicated HDMI cable for attorney laptop
- “Show Me” button that will auto-select (with Judicial oversight) display
- Each attorney table equipped with monitor





Courtroom Lecterns:

- Movable
- Full control of the AV system
- High resolution document camera
- Zoom station can be set up to integrate into cameras in court for remote witness testimony or hybrid hearings

Annotation Features:

- Witness and Lectern locations also have Annotation capability.



Travis County Courts

E-Courtroom Training Guide



March 15, 2013

E-Courtroom Training Guides

TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV

Courts Attorneys Jurors Self-Help Contact

ENHANCED BY Google Translate

Services

E-Courtroom

Civil District Court

Civil County Court

Criminal County Court

Criminal District Court

Probate - Guardianship

Feedback/Suggestions

You are here: Courts / Court Technology / E-Courtroom Technology / E-Courtroom FAQs

Get Help

Phone: 512-854-TECH (8324)

Email: Courts Help

E-court FAQ Civil District

E-courtroom

What does the E-Courtroom system include?

What can counsel do with the E-Courtroom system?

Who may use the E-Courtroom system?

Will formal E-Courtroom training be provided?

What other E-Courtroom training options are available?

What online resources are available for learning the E-Courtroom system?

Lectern Workstation

What are the specifications of the E-Courtroom lectern workstation?

Attorney Laptop Connections

- What can I present from my personal laptop?
- How do I connect my personal laptop to the E-Courtroom system?
- Can more than one attorney be connected to the E-Courtroom system at the same time?
- Will Travis County staff help troubleshoot problems connecting my laptop to the E-Courtroom system?

52 Inch Samsung LCD display\

- The LCD Display
- What are the specifications of the wall display?
- Document Camera
- What are the specifications of the document camera?
- What functions does the document camera support?
- What purpose does the INT-EXT button serve?
- Is it possible to annotate over images presented from the document camera?

DVD / VCR

- What are the specifications of the DVD/VCR combination system?
- What media formats are supported by the DVD/VCR?

E-Courtroom Training Guides

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Eastern District of Texas
Honorable Rodney Gilstrap, Chief Judge
David A. O'Toole, Clerk of Court

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Our Mission
About Federal Courts

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Lufkin Division
Marshall Division
Sherman Division
Texarkana Division
Tyler Division

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Inclement Weather Guidance

Open Solicitations and RFQ's

Employment
Employment Information
Career Opportunities
Law Clerks

Courtroom Technology

[Home](#) » [Court Information](#)

The U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas has installed electronic courtrooms designed to streamline the litigation process through the use of electronic evidence presentation systems while preserving the fairness and dignity of the proceedings. The evidence presentation system allows counsel to present evidence electronically. The system also allows jurors to view evidence up close. HDMI compatible devices such as laptops with HDMI output are required for evidence presentation.

Training

- The court recommends that all persons planning to use the equipment schedule training at least 24 hours before the trial begins.
- To schedule training contact the chambers.
- If you plan to use a laptop or require any other auxiliary equipment (DVD, CD, VHS) during the trial, please bring them to your chambers.
- Arrive early on the day of trial to set up laptop(s), document camera, etc.

Beaumont Courtroom 1 - Judge Heartfield	Beaumont
Beaumont Courtroom 2 - Judge Truncale	
Beaumont Courtroom 3 - Judge Crone	
Beaumont Courtroom 4 - Judge Stetson	
Beaumont Courtroom 6 - Judge Hawthorn	
Lufkin Courtroom 102	Lufkin
Lufkin Courtroom 13	
Marshall Courtroom 106 - Chief Judge Gilstrap	Marshall
Marshall Magistrate Judge Courtroom - Judge Payne	
Plano Courtroom 105 - Judge Jordan	Plano
Plano Courtroom 108 - Judge Davis	
Sherman Courtroom 208 - Judge Mazzant	
Sherman Magistrate Judge Courtroom	Sherman Annex

Sherman Courtroom 208

[Home](#)

Courtroom Technology

Paul Brown Courthouse
101 East Pecan Street, Courtroom 208
Sherman, TX 75090

Available Presentation Aids:

- (1) 55" LCD TV for gallery viewing
- (8) 19" Monitors for jury viewing
- Wireless Collaboration
- Screen Annotation Capabilities located at Judge, Witness and Podium
- HDMI input for a laptop at each of these locations: podium, each counsel table, and (2) counsel consultant locations
- High Resolution Document Camera
- Individual Display Screens located on bench and counsel tables

PLEASE NOTE:

- COMPUTER INPUT SHOULD BE SET AT 1024 X 768
- PLEASE BRING NECESSARY CABLES TO CONNECT TO THE AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

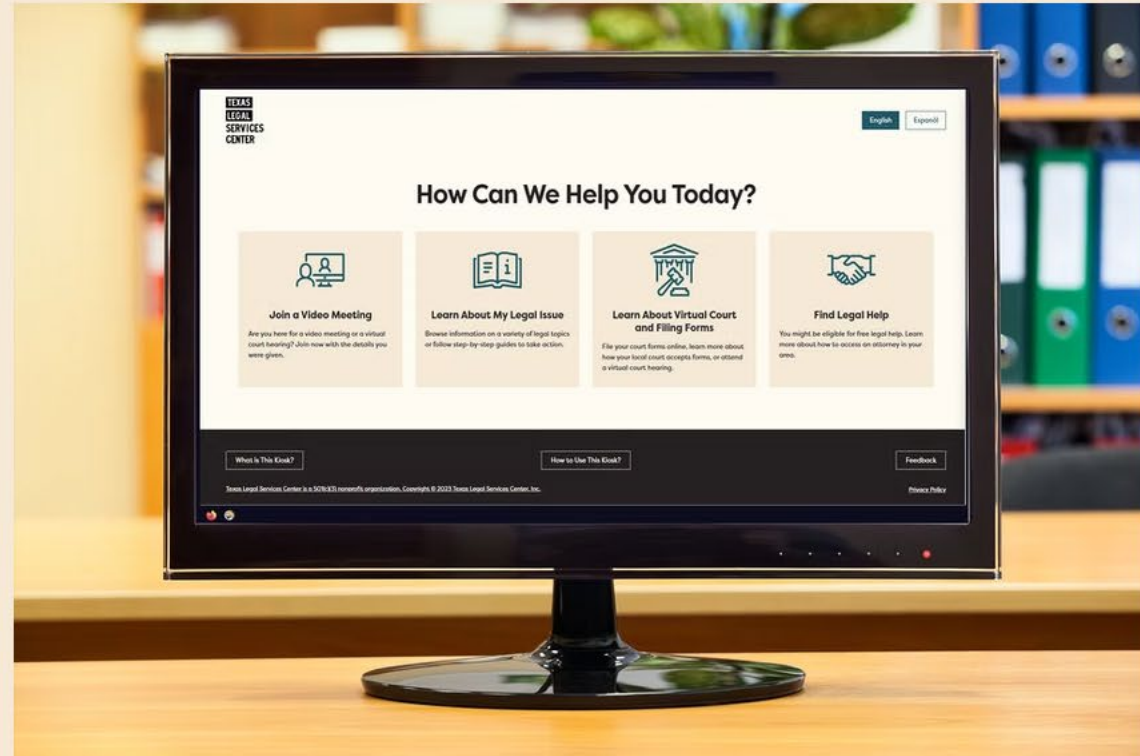
Standard Courthouse Equipment:

Wireless Internet Access
CMECE

State-Wide Virtual Court Kiosks

Virtual court kiosks are computer stations that help community members connect with courts and find legal help.

Kiosks are located across Texas and are available to everyone. All kiosks are accessible in English and Spanish.



At a Virtual Court Kiosk You Can:



Attend a Virtual Court Hearing or Video Meeting

Headphones and private space is provided at each kiosk. Virtual Court Navigators can help guide you during online hearings.



Learn About Your Legal Issue

Learn how to do legal research and browse resources for your legal problem.



Learn About Virtual Court and File Forms Online

Learn how virtual court works and submit court forms. Printers and/or scanners are available for free.



Get Legal Help

Browse the legal aid directory, find legal help clinics, and learn how to choose and hire a lawyer.



**Prepare for
AI Issues**

Where we go from here?



Using Technology in a Courtroom to your Benefit

Hon. Karin Crump

Civil District Judge
250th Civil District Court
Austin, Texas

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