

LINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OREGON E-COURT LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

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Oregon eCourt Message to External Users #2

August 14, 2012

The implementation of Oregon eCourt began in Yamhill County on June 4 and will be arriving in Linn County on December 10. We will be very busy with configuration, training and other preparations in the coming weeks to be ready for that.

Between now and November 1, 2012 we will be reviewing our policies and procedures to make necessary changes for eCourt; we will be making decisions to configure the eCourt program, called Odyssey, to work for Linn County, and we will be converting OJIN data over into Odyssey.

Throughout November 2012 court staff will receive 52 hours each of intensive training on how to use the systems and judges will receive 12 hours or more. As a result during November court operations will be slowed and reduced in volume. We will have few if any jury trials and other dockets will be reduced to the bare minimum.

During the week prior to December 10 all OJIN related operations will come to a stop. The final conversion process will be done on the weekend of December 8 and 9. On Monday morning, December 10, eCourt will be on and functioning in Linn County.

E-filing

Attorneys will be able to begin e-filing on December 10. We are developing a transition plan using two pilot attorney firms to test the system. As soon as we determine it is bug-free we will open it to all attorneys. Our expectation is by the end of December all attorneys will be able to e-file documents. E-filing for attorneys will be optional until sometime in June 2013 when it will become mandatory.

Non-attorneys will also be able to e-file sometime in early 2013. We will provide more information on e-filing in the next few weeks.

External User Meetings

In the next few days you will receive notice of an initial information meeting for all external users. We will provide additional information at that time. Once we have more answers to detailed questions we will schedule an additional external user meeting.

External users include all attorneys, mediators, arbitrators, state and county agencies that use the court system and all other institutions that regularly use our services. Although external users include all members of the public we will initially focus our information efforts at those who we serve the most often.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why are Oregon Courts adopting an “e-court” system?

Oregon Courts are drowning in paper. We handle over a million sheets of paper a year now. We do not have space to store it all and we do not have enough staff to process, handle and store it all. It slows down all our processes. E-court will enable us to serve the public much faster and more effectively than we can now. The many ways in which we can be more efficient and effective with e-court is beyond the scope of this short message. Feel free to ask a LIT member for more detail, their names are listed above.

How long will it take all of Oregon to have e-court?

It will take about five years to install and implement e-court all around the state.

Will e-court mean I can never get a paper copy of a file or court record?

No, e-court creates a “paper on demand” system. Documents can and will still be printed as needed, however this is expensive and there will be fees charged for paper copies. Court staff and judges will not use paper documents; they will view all court records on a computer. The public will also be able to view the court documents on-line subject to some restrictions for confidential documents.

Will I be able to look at the court file at the courthouse like I do now?

The public will be able to view court records on a computer screen at the courthouse. There will be paper records there. If someone wants to see paper records they will have to have them printed for a fee.

When will this take effect in Linn County?

E-Court will begin on December 10, 2012. We will use a mixture of electronic records and paper documents for a short time until all old paper documents are converted to the computer system. After that all court records will be electronic. The rest of Oregon will move to e-court over the next five years, one county at a time.

Can I bring paper documents into the court to be filed or received in evidence?

Yes, the court will be able to scan paper documents and enter them digitally into the computerized system. However, attorneys will be required to e-file all pleadings later in 2013. More information will be provided about that soon.

Will fee waivers and deferrals still be available for indigent users?

Yes.

Will non-lawyers be able to e-file documents?

Yes. This process will take a little time to set up. Eventually we will have some interactive forms for pro se litigants however this will not be available immediately.

It will take our court staff and judges some time to learn all the new systems and get back up to speed. Your patience is much appreciated during this transition time.

Thank you.

Daniel R. Murphy
Presiding Judge

Donald C. Smith
Trial Court Administrator