

LINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OREGON E-COURT LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Hon. Daniel R. Murphy, Presiding Judge
Hon. Carol Bispham, Circuit Judge
Donald C. Smith, Trial Court
Administrator

Leslie Cheney, Records Supervisor
Evelyn Raymond, Court Operations
Supervisor

Frank Homar, TSS
Amy Fairall, Management Assistant /
eCourt Representative to FIT Committee

Oregon eCourt Message to External Users #3

October 2, 2012

We remain on schedule to start up eCourt in Linn County on December 10, 2012. Here is what we know at this point:

Our staff will be increasingly burdened with the preparations for eCourt. It is a formidable task to convert our entire case management and document management systems to a new product. There are thousands of records to be moved from one system to another and hundreds of policies and procedures to be re-evaluated and made to work in a new digital environment. Our staff is committed however to making this successful.

Throughout November 2012 court staff will receive over 30 hours each of intensive training on how to use the systems and judges will receive 8 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.

Beginning Monday, December 10, 2012 we will no longer use OJIN, our old system, and will be using the new system, Odyssey both in the courtrooms and in our records department. Because this is an entirely new system we again ask your patience with staff and judges – it will take several months before everyone is proficient with this new technology.

Court Dockets

Because of the large amount of work involved in configuration, data migration, document management, and training the court dockets have been significantly limited from October 1 through the end of December. We appreciate that this will make it more difficult to get into court and that it will take longer to get a trial heard. This is a temporary situation. We anticipate by the end of January 2013 our docket will be functioning more or less as usual. In the interim we ask for everyone's patience.

It is important to note that we lost 23% of our judges and significant staff in the last two years. This reduction by itself has severely limited our ability to keep all five courtrooms

functioning. Therefore even when the transition to eCourt is complete and staff are experienced enough to operate the system speedily we will still have difficulty hearing cases as quickly as we should.

E-filing

We originally believed that attorneys would be able to begin e-filing on December 10 and we said that in our last information release. We now know that it will not happen that quickly. The eFiling system is not yet finalized for Oregon. We are anticipating finalization soon. Once it is running it will be implemented some time in 2013. Our best current estimate is that eFiling will come to Linn County during the first Quarter of 2013 for attorneys. At first it will be voluntary but later in 2013 it will become mandatory. District Attorney case initiation documents and Juvenile Delinquency case initiation documents will not be eFiled right away; there will be some delay. We do anticipate that all forms of eFiling will be in place before the end of 2013.

External User Meetings

As soon as we have definite answers to your questions we will call a meeting to advise all attorneys and agencies of how this will look and work.

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. We use an antiquated green screen case management system called OJIN which has far exceeded its useful life span. Ecourt 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. It is currently scheduled to be final by June 30, 2016.

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 no paper records there. If someone wants to see paper records they will have to have them printed for a fee.

Will I be able to look at court files from a computer outside the courthouse?

Yes. Depending on your role in a case you will have access to some information in most case types through web access. It will take some time for this to become fully functional and it will not exist state wide until 2016.

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

External User List			
District Attorney Juvenile Department Dept. of Human Services Linn C. Sheriff Criminal Defense Attys. Juv. Defense Attys.	CASA of Linn County Linn-Benton Bar Association Oregon Youth Authority Linn County Mental Health Linn County A and D Citizen Review Board	Linn County Commissioners Linn County Parole and Probation	

Where recipient is agency head you are requested to disburse this internally as appropriate. Thank you.