

County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Courtroom Interpreting & Assistive Listening System

The Court Technology Office (CrTO) has implemented an enhanced courtroom interpreting system integrated with the Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS). The system utilizes leading edge technologies to provide high quality audio, supports simultaneous and consecutive interpreting in the courtrooms, and improves the interpreting process with the Adult Detention Center (ADC) during daily prisoner arraignments.

In the courtroom, a custom designed control panel (see Figure 1) allows interpreters the ability to control the volume in their headset earphone (see Figure 2) for any courtroom microphone, including the judge, clerk, witness, attorneys, etc. The small, user-friendly control panel provides interpreters the ability to mute their microphone, and switch between English and foreign language. Foreign language speaking individual(s) in the courtroom are provided a wireless, Infra-Red (IR) headset, and foreign language speaking individuals in the ADC have access to a specialized handset. Courtroom participants hear the English version of the interpretation through the courtroom speakers. The IR headsets (see Figure 3) are also used as assistive listening devices to amplify the courtroom audio for persons with assistive listening needs.

While the engineering and programming is quite complex, the combination of the custom interpreter control panel, the professional-grade audio equipment, and the use of the latest technology in touch panel devices produces an easy-to-use, state-of-the-art interpreting system. The system is available in all CTMS courtrooms.

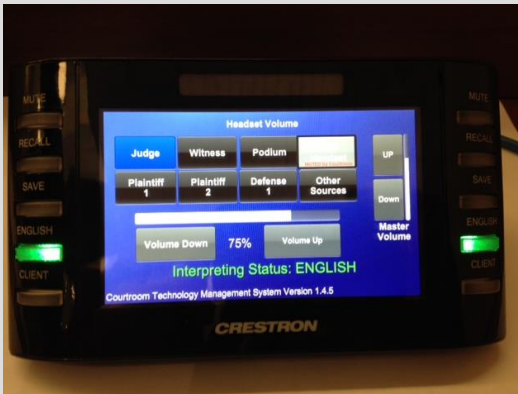


Figure 1



Figure 2/Figure 3

The project meets the primary objectives to improve citizens' access to the Courts, facilitate trials and hearings in the most effective and efficient means possible, allow for all three Courts to share common resources, and provide for flexibility and adaptability to incorporate future changes in technology and court proceedings.

For more information visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/crto



Circuit Court & Records

General District Court

Juvenile & Domestic
Relations District Court



Department of Information
Technology (DIT)
Court Technology Office

Fairfax County Courthouse
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