

County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS)

Fairfax County's Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS) is a state-of-the-art courtroom management and control system developed to integrate modern technologies into traditional courtroom activities. The custom built CTMS allows all high-tech courtrooms to share a common infrastructure through a centralized Master Control Room (MCR). The distributed environment provides consistency, standardization, and scalability between the three courts, and is designed to meet future growth and changes in technology.

The CTMS provides the capability for:

- ❖ Integrated electronic evidence presentation
- ❖ Laptop audio/video interfaces in multiple locations
- ❖ Video conferencing for arraignments, remote witness, remote judge and secluded witness
- ❖ Electronic court recording, integrated assistive listening and interpretive systems
- ❖ Judges or Clerks control of the technologies from the bench
- ❖ Overflow capacity to observe courtroom activity from another courtroom

All CTMS courtrooms include multiple flat-screen displays allowing the judge, jury and gallery to view unobstructed presentations of evidence with the ability to pause, enhance, annotate and print. The courtrooms contain touch-screen panels for the judge, clerk and users (i.e., attorneys) to manage multiple microphones and video displays located at the judges' bench, clerks' station, court recorder station, attorney tables and podium, jury box and spectator gallery. Prisoner arraignments are conducted on a daily basis both locally and remotely from any of the high-tech courtrooms saving significant staff and travel time. The evidence presentation system provides for various electronic evidence sources including CD/DVD/VCR, document camera, enhanced x-ray, computer video and multi-audio interface with annotation and printing capabilities.

The CTMS is overseen by a centralized Court Technology Office (CrTO), and was developed in partnership between the three Fairfax County Courts: Circuit Court & Records, General District Court, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, and the Fairfax County Department of Information Technology. The first phase of the CTMS project was completed during 2008, and launched five new high-tech courtrooms connected over a fiber backbone through a centralized Master Control Room (MCR) and distributed to other ancillary facilities to include the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and secluded witness rooms. During 2009, the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court relocated to the new courthouse whereby nine new high-tech courtrooms were integrated with the CTMS. The County recently completed renovations to three older courtrooms. Along with the original Courtroom 5E prototype, the Fairfax Courts now offer 18 courtrooms with high-tech capabilities. Renovations for the remaining 23 older courtrooms are under consideration.

The primary objectives were, and continue to be, to:

- ❖ Improve citizens access, internally and externally, to the Courts
- ❖ Facilitate trials and hearings in the most effective and efficient means possible
- ❖ Allow for all three Courts to share common resources
- ❖ Provide for flexibility and adaptability to incorporate future changes in technology and court proceedings

The CTMS meets these objectives by providing consistency and standardization in all courtrooms for all three Fairfax Courts, and achieving courtroom efficiencies and operations while optimizing available resources.

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

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