

County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

Enhanced Court Interpreting

The Courtroom Technology Office (CrTO) is chartered to provide a technological solution to enhance the interpreting process in the courtrooms and the Adult Detention Center (ADC) for all three Fairfax County Courts: Circuit Court & Records (CCR), General District Court (GDC), and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC). The Enhanced Court Interpreting project is a collaborative effort consisting of judges, court staff, technical staff and courtroom interpreters assembled to research and determine methods that provide the most optimal interpreting solutions to integrate with the existing Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS).

The existing courtroom environments (high-tech and non-tech) place limitations on interpreters to perform their duties. Challenges also exist with the interpreting process between the courtroom and the ADC during daily prisoner arraignments and advisements. New technologies are available utilizing professional-level equipment, hardware and software to improve and enhance the interpreting process while providing opportunities to streamline existing business processes.

The recommended solution is a unique, hybrid approach that includes the utilization and integration of both wired and secured wireless capabilities. Interpreters will be provided additional functionality with flexibility to move around the courtroom, aided by wireless headsets and customized Judge/Clerk and Interpreter system controls. This approach takes advantage of the existing courtroom infrastructure and is considered the most optimal solution for the 17 high-tech CTMS courtrooms and future high-tech courtrooms. The project team will address non-tech courtrooms and remote interpreting in a future phase of the project.

The project team has finalized a Statement of Work (SOW) with a CTMS integrator to commence by March 2012. In lieu of a full 17 courtroom investment with an unfamiliar product, the CrTO will pilot the selected solution in courtrooms 2J and 2K for General District Court, 3H for Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, and 5J for Circuit Court.

The Enhanced Court Interpreting 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

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