

TANDBERG Customer Profile

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit U.S. Court of International Trade

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Product: TANDBERG 6000

The lawyer stands, faces the judge, and speaks directly to her – even though she is 120 miles away. How can this happen? It's tele-justice, or videoconferencing in the justice system. It appears that tele-justice is flourishing, due to software that makes the system "court-friendly." Videoconferencing has become a valuable tool that helps ensure that the calendar is met, and that cases move ahead on time.

Tele-justice is clearly becoming a valuable tool to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, in Philadelphia. There are no witnesses and no jurors in front of this federal court. Instead, three judges sit the bench to hear oral arguments from two attorneys on opposing sides of the appealed issue. The Third Circuit is using videoconferencing to allow lawyers to speak before the judges from a remote location and/or to bring circuit judges to the court remotely. According to Kathy Peek, Assistant Circuit Executive, U.S. Third Circuit, "Videoconferencing works well for us because it saves both lawyers and judges the expense and hardship of travel in certain situations."

There are 18 judges in the circuit, who are randomly assigned to the calendar. Visiting judges from other parts of the country may also be assigned, based on the workload. With justices coming from locations as far apart as Trenton, NJ and Pittsburgh, PA, and perhaps farther, at times it can be difficult to guarantee attendance - particularly in instances of emergency or bad weather. Often the opposing lawyers may have traveled from other parts of the country; postponing the procedure would affect a great many people. Allowing a judge to sit the bench "remotely," therefore allows the case to proceed on time.

Similarly, if a lawyer from the West Coast needs to present a half-hour of oral argument before the Court in Philadelphia, it can be a great benefit to offer the option of "remote argument."

The U.S. Court of International Trade is the only federal court that reviews administrative decisions rendered by the executive branch that affect the administration and enforcement of U.S. trade laws. With this narrowly defined, but nation-wide, jurisdiction, the U.S. Court of International Trade has introduced videoconferencing as an option for lawyers to increase accessibility.

Leo Gordon, Clerk of the Court, U.S. Court of International Trade states, "Videoconferencing offers the Court and its officers an opportunity for increased access and minimized costs."

To be effective in either situation, videoconferencing must facilitate natural court

Application: *Increasing options for those involved in the trial process, including judges, lawyers, and witnesses*

proceedings. In other words, the courtroom itself must be visible to the remote site. Courtrooms effectively using videoconferencing have multiple cameras and monitors, allowing a variety of views at any given moment in the proceeding. Evidence might also need to be integrated. Consequently, Duo Video™ is a necessity. The deputy of the court, or court crier, manages the videoconference, using Initia/Video Bureau software optimized for the courtroom environment.

Thanks to Initia's innovative Video Bureau software and dependable, reliable and easy-to-use hardware, videoconferencing is definitely becoming a more prominent scheduling/communications solution in the court system. According to Kathy Peek, "Since we are getting more requests to use it all the time, I believe it must be working."

Why TANDBERG?

According to David Brenner, Chief Technology Officer, Initia, "We are pleased to be partnering with TANDBERG. We mutually benefit by joining forces to effectively meet our customers' needs. And our customers benefit from the highest level functionality and reliability available, provided through the TANDBERG codec."

States Initia President Dave Ireland, "Our goal is to make our software more useful for end-users in the tele-justice market. TANDBERG's state-of-the-art equipment helps us in meeting that goal."

For more information about Initia or the usage of videoconferencing in the court system, contact Bill Fitzgerald (732) 542-7224 X312, or e-mail him at bill.fitzgerald@initiainc.com

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