



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Contact: Heather Murphy
Telephone: (602) 452-3656
Cell: (602) 448-8412
hmurphy@courts.az.gov

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Paperless Courtroom Pilot System Launches in Pima County

PHOENIX – The widespread societal trend toward paperless transactions has hit the Superior Court for Pima County. The paperless courtroom is here – at least for three judges who are piloting a new system in Tucson. They are testing, in real time, a judicial dashboard called eBench that consolidates case documents and data onto a single PC screen. The judges – one each in civil, criminal, and family law – started using the system on Monday, August 25.

The judges using eBench have access to case documents and data in an easy-to-navigate interface that supports on-screen functionality like full-text searching of documents, automated sticky notes, electronic sharing of comments, and much more. By readily making this information electronically available on the bench, eBench is a major step toward the goal of eliminating the need for paper files.

The three judges piloting the system are Scott Rash (Criminal Bench), Charles Harrington (Presiding Judge, Civil Bench) and Jeffrey Bergin (Presiding Judge, Family Bench). Each is working with new touchscreen monitors on the bench and, soon, in their chambers.

“I am excited to work with eBench and see numerous benefits to using this technology. This is an indispensable development in our progression to a paperless courtroom,” Judge Rash said.

After procuring the system, developed by Mentis Technologies, and beginning the months-long implementation process with Pima Superior Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts established a working group to implement a solution that will meet the broad array of needs of courts across the state.

“We are glad that we can participate in this pilot project. Pima County Superior Court is the busiest court outside of Maricopa County. Use of eBench by our judges is expected to be a first step to a nearly statewide deployment of this exciting new technology,” said the Honorable Sarah R. Simmons, Presiding Judge of the Pima County courts.

The Superior Court in Maricopa County uses a different technology system to manage its records in the courtroom. There are no plans to deploy eBench to Maricopa County at this time.

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