

COMMON PLEAS COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY

COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

The Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas is proud to have available to trial counsel, electronic equipment to assist with trial presentation.

The streamlining of the litigation process through the implementation of advanced communication technologies has enhanced the Court's ability to meet the needs of the bar and the public, while preserving the dignity and fairness of the proceedings.

Since we are five times as likely to remember something we both see and hear, the audio/visual means of presentation implemented in the courtrooms increases both efficiency and juror comprehension.

The Court has the following equipment:

- A **digital presenter** which can be used to display exhibits such as documents, pictures or medium-sized three-dimensional objects (Samsung Digital Presenter, SDP-900DX)
- Two **52" monitors** mounted on the wall for Jury and spectators. The units are connected to a desktop computer capable of playing DVDs, Power-point presentations, pictures and documents (Word or Adobe Pdf).
- A **video cassette recorder**, which is connected to the 52" televisions.
- A **DVD player**, which is connected to the 52" televisions.
- A **chalkboard/corkboard** that may be positioned throughout the courtroom and on which one can write or draw, and to which documents and other exhibits may be attached.
- An **easel**.

The Court also has available the equipment listed below, but prefers that the above equipment be utilized unless it is simply not feasible.

- A **digital projector** which can be utilized with a laptop (Proxima DP6500X, Infocus digital projector).
- VGA connections to display multi-media presentations or images from a portable computer allowing documents, images, etc. to be displayed on one of the two projection screens in the courtroom. Note: This Court does not provide the laptop.
- A large **ceiling mounted projection screen**.
- A **portable projection screen** that may be set up in one of two locations in the Courtroom, depending on whether it is a jury trial, bench trial and the number of spectators.

Counsel who anticipate using video, computer presentations, or other Courtroom technology should schedule a time to meet with the Staff Attorney before the trial for a brief demonstration of our equipment. A number of attorneys in this Court have utilized its equipment to show pictures, documents, etc., during hearing/trials. The Court prefers to do a dry run anytime counsel intends to use the digital projector to ensure that their equipment is compatible (we do not provide the laptop). The Staff Attorney will set up everything for counsel just prior to the hearing/trial based on the equipment requirements and the number of people in the courtroom (we have the option of a ceiling mounted screen, floor screen or television).

With a brief orientation and assistance during trial from the Staff Attorney, attorneys can present photos, documents, objects, videotapes and electronic presentations to focus juror attention on critical details.

The Court welcomes the bar to take advantage of these new facilities. Counsel are encouraged to contact the Staff Attorney to arrange for the use of this equipment.