



Press Release

Superior Court of California County of San Francisco

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San Francisco Superior Court Leads California in Use of Wireless Technology

San Francisco, CA — The San Francisco Superior Court and Courtroom Connect today announced the availability of wireless Internet access in the Civic Center Courthouse located at 400 McAllister Street. Presiding Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay explains that the Court's support of the installation of a wireless network is consistent with the Court's ongoing efforts to become more service oriented and responsive to those who do business with the Courts. As Chair of the Court's Computer Committee, Judge Quidachay oversaw the efforts of the Court's ITG staff, directed by ITG Director Ron Ho, and Courtroom Connect, which resulted in the realization of this innovative service with minimal cost to the Court.

According to Chief Executive Officer Gordon Park-Li, the San Francisco Superior Court is excited to pioneer the use of this exciting new technology in the courthouse. Internet access in the courthouse will lead to efficiency gains for everyone involved in the justice system. Recent advances in wireless technology now make it possible for lawyers and other courthouse users to get high quality access to the Internet at a fast enough speed to make it practical.

Litigators have been quick to see the benefits of the new courthouse network. Douglas R. Young, a partner at the law firm of Farella Braun and Martel explained how he would benefit from Internet access in the courthouse, Internet access improves communication in respect to research, scheduling and witness preparation. Other lawyers were excited about the prospect of using the network at the courthouse to conduct online research, respond to urgent emails, and transfer large files from their offices to the courthouse.

Up until now, access to online resources has been limited, if not impossible, in the courthouse. Courts often do not have the resources to make Ethernet jacks widely available, and because these buildings are mostly steel and concrete, reception of outside wireless networks has been weak. The 802.11b wireless standard utilized in the courthouse solves this critical problem. Wireless access points installed throughout the building transmit signals that allow users to access the Internet virtually anywhere in the courthouse. To access the network, users simply insert a credit-card sized wireless access card into their laptop. For those without wireless capabilities, a wired service is available at all counsel tables. Connection speeds are 27 times faster than dialup modems.

This new service is being provided through a third-party ISP, Courtroom Connect (www.courtroomconnect.com). Courtroom Connect specializes in providing wireless Internet access in courthouses. Commenting about the launch of service in San Francisco, Michael Breyer, CEO, said, Lawyers have been using the Internet in their offices to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their work for years. Now, they can use the Internet to bring their office with them into the courthouse.

Also Available For Comment:

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