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– Jeffrey Bleich, Partner at Munger, Tolles, & Olson LLP

MUNGER, TOLLES, & OLSON LLP

B A C K G R O U N D

After only a day of wireless Internet service during a recent case, a team of lawyers from Munger, Tolles, & Olson LLP knew there would be no looking back. The team, led by Jeffrey Bleich, a partner at the firm and the President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, had decided to try Courtroom Connect during a two week trial. Courtroom Connect's wireless Internet service made an impact immediately, giving the lawyers instant access to information and services when they needed them and, just as important, allowing the team to operate with the awareness that those resources would always be readily available. The wireless Internet connection gave them a new level of confidence throughout the trial, and it provided important concrete benefits as well. Mr. Bleich, who had never used wireless before, says he would never try a case without it again.

U S E O F S E R V I C E

The trial team was quick to take advantage of the diverse array of resources provided by Courtroom Connect's service. For the first time, the team was able to integrate wireless Internet into their trial strategy in a variety of ways, improving their performance across all levels of litigation in court.

On-site research and printing gave the team the ability to complete tasks that would have otherwise required more time, and been impossible to complete outside of the office.

Rohit Singla, an associate at Munger Tolles, utilized the wireless connection to present a brief to the judge. Jeff Bleich explains this instance in detail. "One of our associates was able to write a brief during lunch recess in our break room, and have it on the desk of the Judge when she returned. She said on the record that we must have had a whole team of attorneys back in the office to produce something this fast. When we explained to her that Rohit did the brief right there over the lunch break, she said, 'I must say, Mr. Singla, I am very impressed.' The wireless connection helped our trial team establish credibility with the court."

Courtroom Connect's wireless service also provided a constant support presence, alleviating the isolation that, Mr. Bleich felt, once characterized court appearances. With Courtroom Connect, the lawyers were able to stay in touch with senior partners and to complete correspondence and research independently. During trial, the team had at their fingertips the case information for every precedent their opponents cited. That made constructing counter arguments easier than ever before.

"We are constantly using the system during trial to do legal research on the fly, to check facts on the Internet, or to get assistance from the office with email," said Jeff Bleich.

Not only did Courtroom Connect prove to be a valuable tool to complete tasks that had once been daunting, but also allowed for strategies that would have once been unachievable. On two separate occasions, the Munger team was able to defeat the arguments of the opposing counsel by offering up actual websites as evidence. When the plaintiffs attempted to make an analogy to a disclaimer for the Encyclopedia Britannica, Mr. Bleich's team was able to find that disclaimer online and show to the judge that the plaintiff's analogy was inaccurate. Later, when the plaintiffs attempted to argue that a company in question, which Mr. Bleich needed to establish as a competitor of his client, was not in fact competing, the Munger team simply brought up the websites of the two companies and let the facts speak for themselves. The plaintiff had no choice but to drop the line of argument.

E N D R E S U L T

Mr. Bleich's team found themselves turning to wireless again and again throughout their two weeks in trial, finding new ways to streamline every aspect of their case with the help of internet access. Courtroom Connect gave them the edge they needed.

"It has been a huge competitive advantage. The service has been indispensable," said Jeff Bleich.