

Electronic Signatures Accelerates Justice in Courts

Electronic signatures deliver a paperless solution to improve the Circuit Court's ability to process vast volumes of documentation

Background

The Circuit Court in this mid-Atlantic state is the state trial court with jurisdiction to hear civil and criminal cases, handling nearly 20,000 cases with hundreds of thousands of paper filings each year. Their mission is to provide open access to justice in a fair, efficient and timely manner, ensuring all citizens the rights guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and the constitution of their state.

Challenge

The Circuit Court struggled to work efficiently with the legal system's requirements for signed documentation. Official documents were either mailed or hand-delivered by external parties, or created internally, then printed and signed. Signed documents were either scanned and electronically archived, or stored in physical archives. In addition to the high costs incurred for maintaining this paper-based system, the process was painfully slow and inefficient.

Solution

The Circuit Court required an electronic signature solution that would remove most of the paper by eliminating the print > sign > scan cycle, preferably one based on industry-standard digital certificate and signature technology. In this way, the Court could cut operational costs significantly while speeding services to citizens.



Top Benefits Achieved

- ✓ Elimination of the printing of hundreds of thousands of documents per year
- ✓ Creation of globally verifiable and legally-binding records
- ✓ Shortened cycle times
- ✓ Seamless online signing of MS Word and Adobe PDF files

Creating a paperless court system

Results

The DocuSign Signature Appliance solution serves several hundred individuals throughout the Court system, including judges, judicial staff and employees, as well as at the State Attorney's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and numerous private law firms. Altogether, it eliminates the need for these users to print hundreds of thousands of documents just for signing each and every year.

By implementing the DocuSign Signature Appliance solution across its judicial and administrative processes, the Circuit Court established a streamlined process that does not depend on time-consuming hand-delivery, printing, scanning and physical archiving. On the contrary, the Signature Appliance enables an online process in which all Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF files that the Court uses can be electronically and visually signed, resulting in globally verifiable and legally-binding records.



Previous to the DocuSign Signature Appliance implementation, we struggled to efficiently work with the legal system's demands for signed documentation. The DocuSign Signature Appliance enabled us to transform to a true paperless environment, internally and with 3rd parties, while adhering to all legal requirements."

- U.S. Circuit Court Chief Deputy Clerk



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