



The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Franklin County Clerk Of Courts' Experts to Present at National Conference

December 4, 2014 – Franklin County Clerk of Courts is sending five Deputy Clerks to present its story in the e-Filing project at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) e-Courts 2014 Conference. The conference begins December 8, with Clerks' staff presentation beginning the December 9, plenary session. This year's e-Courts conference will be held at Red Rocks Resort in Las Vegas. NCSC invited the Franklin County Clerk's panel of subject matter experts to share their relevant insights to 600 conference attendees representing public and private sectors.

"The Clerk's office is at the core of the justice system in Central Ohio," said Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Clerk to the Court of Common Pleas and the 10th District Court of Appeals. "My Deputy Clerks played an integral role in rolling out and ultimately launching e-Filing in all five legal divisions." The panel includes the Clerk's Assistant Director of Business Operations, Communications Specialist and two Business Analysts. The office's Director of Communications will moderate the one hour presentation.

The e-Filing project was initially proposed in the early 2000s, but when Clerk O'Shaughnessy first took office in 2009 she included its full implementation as a major initiative of her campaign. Working in collaboration with other county agencies and participating as a partner on the county's Data and e-Governance Boards, e-Filing successfully launched in the Civil Division in fall 2011. Subsequent roll out of electronic filing included Domestic, Appeals, Juvenile and Criminal Divisions, and occurred over the next three years. According to NCSC, Franklin is the only county east of the Mississippi River with e-Filing fully implemented in all five major legal divisions.

The Courts' Administrative Orders and Local Rules mandate e-Filing in most situations. While the duality of paper and electronic filings continue in these divisions, the Clerk's office processes on average 70% of all filings via this virtual realm. "Whenever possible the processes did remain the same as what they were in the paper world," said Suzanne Horlocker, Assistant Director of Business Operations. "The processes remain the same; only the medium changed."

Clerk of Courts' presentation materials, including an opening video, session visuals, and all contact information can be viewed on the Clerk's conference-specific website www.ClerkVegas2014.com. The entire presentation including all visual materials were produced in-house, in a paperless, environmentally friendly format.

"Not only am I proud that my Deputy Clerks are representing *my* office, but that they are also representing Franklin County on a national stage," said Clerk O'Shaughnessy.

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The Franklin County Clerk of Courts' functions include: receiving, receipting, managing and retaining all legal documents filed through the Court of Common Pleas; processing vehicular titles; processing U.S. Passport applications; and, recording notaries public's commissions. Staff goals are to be courteous, timely, and accurate in their daily responsibilities