Using Information to Govern the Judicial Branch

Workshop #2
Information Systems & Judicial Statistics

The Electronic Courtroom

Electronic Interiors, Inc.
Dickson Stewart, Principal

- Experience
  - Consulted on & Designed over 100 Electronic Courtrooms throughout the United States
- Services
  - Planning & Budget Development
  - Design of Building Infrastructure
  - Design of Electronic Systems
  - Construction Administration & Training

Why an Electronic Courtroom?

"Increased Judicial Efficiency Proven Through the Use of Media Communications Technology, While Preserving the Dignity & Fairness of the Proceedings"

- Audio Technology
- Video Presentation Technology
- Video Conferencing
- Record Keeping
- Computer Aided Transcription
- Control Systems
- Security Monitoring & Duress

Embracing Technology

"Nobody would think of commenting on the 'Courtroom with central heat'... These facilities were revolutionary in the past, but are beneath notice today. Today, heated courtrooms are commonplace. I suggest that this is the context in which modern courtroom technology and electronic evidence presentation should be viewed....

Embracing Technology

Electronic evidence is here as an accomplished fact. To deny it, and build courtrooms without it, is to suggest we ought to put fireplaces within and hitching posts outside our new buildings."

- Judge James N. Rosenbaum
- US District Court, 1996

Strategic Plan for US Courts

- In March 1999, the Judicial Conference endorsed the use of Technology in the Courtroom urging that Courtroom Technology be considered as necessary and integral parts of Courtrooms:
  - "Reducing reliance on paper"
  - "Achieving economies in it's way of doing business"

Audio Technology

- Speech Reinforcement
- Wire Tap Playback
- Audio Conferencing
- Hearing Impaired Assistance
- Multiple Language Translation
- Courtroom Monitoring/Cell Feed

Video Presentation Technology

- Simultaneous Presentation & Annotation of:
  - Paper Documents
  - Scanned Documents
  - Photographs
  - Objects
  - Video Tapes
  - Computer Materials
  - X-Rays
  - Transparencies

Video Conferencing

- Remote Judge
- Remote Attorney
- Camera(s) can follow microphones that are in use
- Non-transported prisoners
- Protected Witness
- Child Witness

Record Keeping

- Audio Tape Recording
- Digital CD or Hard Drive Audio Recording
- Video Tape Recording
- Streaming Video Recording
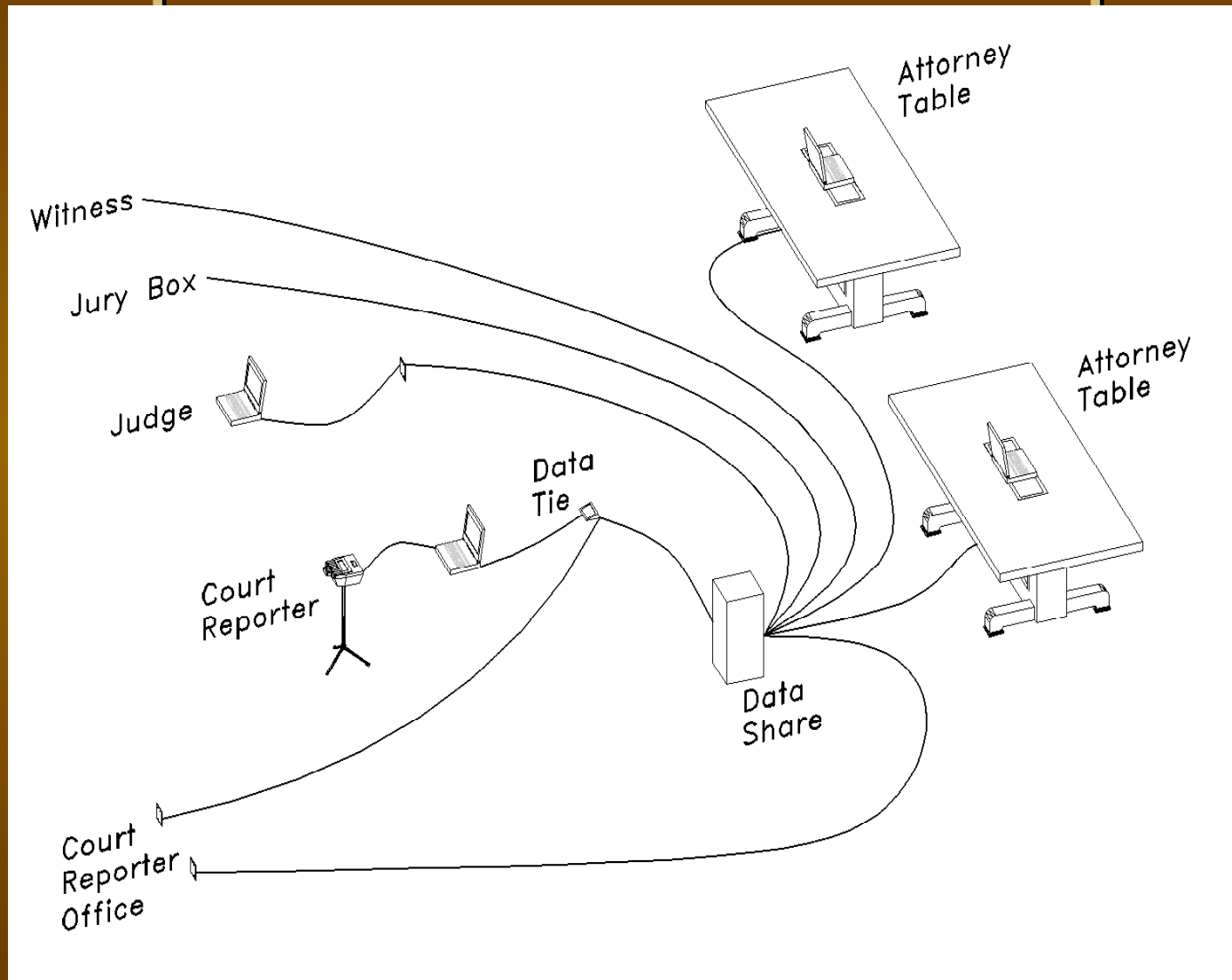- Voice Recognition
- Synchronized Evidence & Event Logging

Computer Aided Transcription

- Special Digital Stenograph to Provide Live Data to Reporter's Laptop

- Allows Participants to Track & Annotate over Official Stenographic Record on their Private Laptops

- Participants can Capture Transcript for Instant Use

Computer Aided Transcription

Attorney Table

Witness

Jury Box

Judge

Data Tie

Court Reporter

Attorney Table

Data Share

Court Reporter Office

Control Systems

- Simple for Users
- Integrated Functions for Multiple Devices
- Touch Screens & PC Windows Control Common
- Redundant Locations
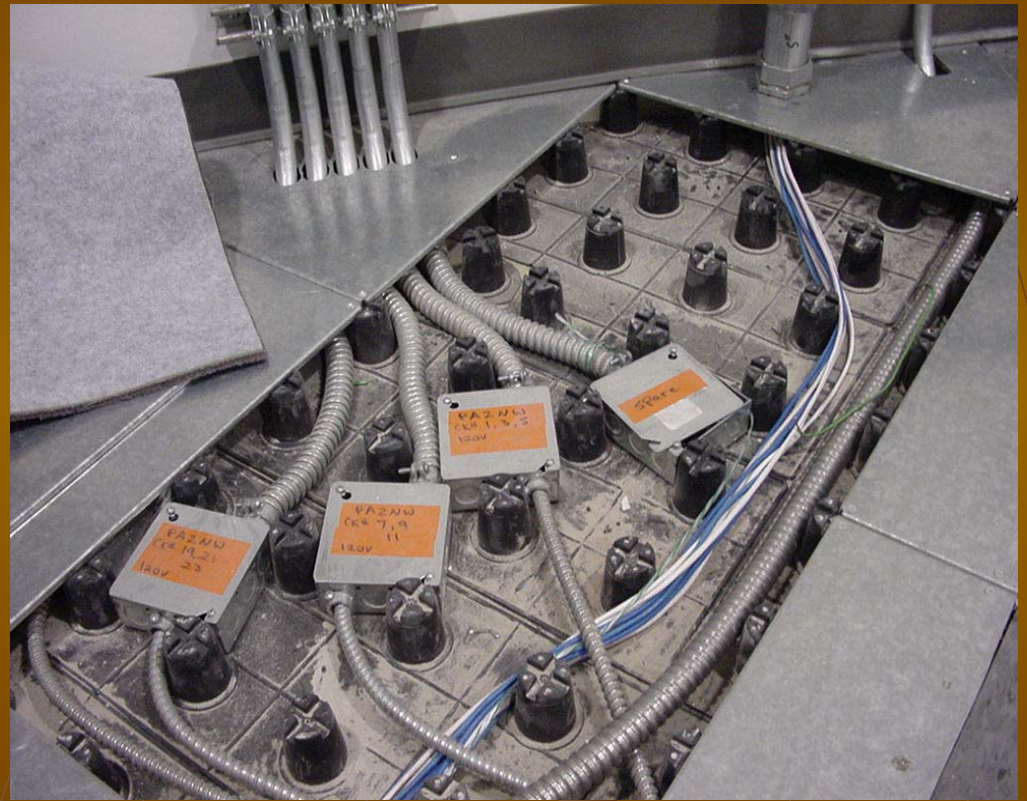- Custom Configured
- Sustainable via Software

Security Monitoring & Duress

- Multipoint Cameras Fed to Remote Monitor Location
- Digital Recording of Active Courtrooms
- Audio Monitoring
- Duress Button Below Judge's Kevlar-lined Bench to Call Officers

Building Infrastructure

- Infrastructure Must Be Designed to Accept & Support The Technology:
    - Equipment Rooms
    - Special Cooling
    - Special Power
    - Raceways
    - Millwork & Furniture
    - Lighting
    - Acoustics

Electronic Interiors is a Private Independent Consulting & Design Company

- Independent of Equipment Manufacturers
- Provides Professional Services to Implement Electronic Courtrooms
  - Advanced Planning
  - Infrastructure Design
  - Architectural
  - Millwork & Furniture
  - Electronic Media Systems Design
  - Preparation of Bid Documents
  - Construction Administration
  - Training

Specializes in Providing Advanced Planning Services

- Sessions with Judges & Key Court Administrators
- Technology Implementation Goal Management
- Long & Short Range Projects
- Comprehensive Documentation
- Budget Development

Gracias

It Is Our Pleasure To Have Been Invited