



NEWS RELEASE
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4th Circuit Court of Appeal Launches E-Filing Pilot Program

NEW ORLEANS, LA. The Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit, is launching an E-Filing Pilot Program effective May 1, 2014. The pilot program will allow criminal case attorneys to file electronically writ applications, briefs, and other pleadings on all new and existing criminal cases. The Louisiana Supreme Court is the only other state appellate court to accept electronic filings. If the E-Filing Pilot Program proves successful, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal will consider expanding its program to include all cases in 2015.

Electronic records management was first launched by the federal courts in 1988. Florida and Texas state courts were among the first states to create online filing systems to give attorneys and the public greater access to legal documents. Massachusetts state courts also are launching an e-filing pilot program this summer. Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal expects electronic filings will lessen the court staff's work load and reduce the waiting time to process court filings. Digital storage is also expected to substantially reduce the cost of records storage for the court, attorneys and the public.

Chief Judge James F. McKay III welcomed the digital technology saying, "It's a leap forward in making our court more user-friendly. It also demonstrates our court's desire to join other innovative institutions of business and government committed to protecting our environment through the reduction of paper consumption."

The E-Filing Pilot Program registration guidelines, registration, and an online tutorial are available on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal website at la4th.org. The Clerk of Court's office is also available to respond to questions by telephone at (504) 412-6001.

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