

TANDBERG CUSTOMER PROFILE

The Courtroom 21 Project at William and Mary



- Speed trials and court proceedings
- Lower travel time and costs for staff, witnesses, and legal teams
- Increase public safety by reducing the transportation of prisoners

"The use of videoconferencing allows the courts to reduce the time and money associated with transporting prisoners, and it also provides access to witnesses, including experts that, otherwise, may not be able to be part of the hearings."

FRED LEDERER
DIRECTOR
COURTROOM 21 PROJECT

WITH VIDEO COMMUNICATION, COURTROOM 21 SERVES AS WORLDWIDE MODEL FOR COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY - EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM BECOMES TESTING GROUND FOR HIGH-TECH ADVANCES

A UNIQUE COURTROOM

At first glance, the McGlathlin Courtroom at William and Mary's law school doesn't resemble any familiar TV courtroom - not the grandeur of Perry Mason's or the spartan look of Judge Judy's. It's much more modern with its natural oak-stained judge's bench, attorneys' desks, witness stand and jury box, red-cushioned seats in the viewing gallery and recessed lighting. A row of computer monitors for jurors and a high-tech-looking podium for lawyers suggest the courtroom uses some technological wizardry. Few, though, would realize that the home of the Courtroom 21 Project represents the courtroom of the future with an abundance of largely unobtrusive advanced technology, especially for visual communication.

Display screens ring the courtroom, including a large plasma screen behind the witness stand and smaller LCD monitors installed on every counsel desktop, the witness stand, and before every juror. The technology allows remote testimony, three-dimensional images of evidence and speech transcription. Eight cameras, many of which are ceiling-mounted behind smoked-glass domes, videotape proceedings. A mock jail and judge's chambers contain video-communication facilities for remote arraignment, witness examination, lawyer-to-judge and lawyer-to-lawyer conference. All video evidence as well as any live video is displayed on individual monitors for each juror. For the most part, Courtroom 21 uses commercially available, reasonably priced technology.

Courtroom 21 began in 1993 when the National Center for State Courts and the College of William and Mary law school introduced the high-tech experimental program. From the outset, it has served as a testing ground for the most recent advances in courtroom technology, including video-communication systems from TANDBERG, to simulate court situations.

VIDEO IN THE COURTROOM

Video communication have been making steady inroads in the nation's courtrooms - thanks to Courtroom 21's leadership. Given legal concerns, justice communication

TANDBERG CUSTOMER PROFILE

The Courtroom 21 Project at William and Mary

should be visual, so Courtroom 21 sought the highest-quality and advanced video-communication technology. Courtroom managers had to rely confidently on the system to deliver instantaneous and exceptional visual communication - where it was essential to be seen and heard. The system had to be secure, durable, interactive and offer simple solutions that courtroom participants can use easily. It had to be standards-based so it works smoothly with other equipment, natural so it is as unobtrusive as possible and reliable - always on and always working smoothly.

As Courtroom 21 illuminates, video communication can speed up trials and court proceedings and lower travel times - and costs - for court staff, witnesses and legal teams, among others. Courtroom 21 Director Fred Lederer estimates that lawyers and judges save at least 25 percent in time with high technology evidence presentation. Video communication assists in critical time savings and also permits testimony from those who cannot reasonably travel to the court. It also aids public safety since prisoners aren't transported and held at the court location. It helps children and other sensitive witnesses whose courtroom experiences could be traumatic without video communication. And the technology gets cheaper and better, often costing tens of thousands of dollars less than in the past.

One Courtroom 21 project in particular captured the benefits of video communication by illustrating how a complex trial of people involved in funding terrorism might work using it. The project linked mock-up courtrooms in Australia, England and the U.S. and lawyers presented arguments for each jurisdiction. The issue: whether a London-based conversation between an Australian art dealer and his solicitor carried legal privilege. Using TANDBERG video-communication equipment, the US prosecutor argued that the Australian judge should order the Australian lawyer in her courtroom to testify over an international video link. However, in this unique and history-making experiment, the prosecutor had to convince a judge in the UK, applying English law, a federal judge in the Williamsburg courtroom, applying American law, and the Australian judge in Australia that under the law of all three nations the witness should testify. The participants could see each other and the McGlothlin courtroom. At the same time, courtroom participants could see the barrister and the witness on the 50-inch screens and laptop computers.

TANDBERG IN THE COURTROOM

Courtroom 21 officials secured TANDBERG technology because it met their criteria for delivering exceptional interactive video communication naturally and reliably. And the excellent technology also worked with all other high-tech components integrated into the courtroom. TANDBERG's system allows videoconferencing from people located practically anywhere - in multiple locations and with several endpoints. It is used for innumerable applications, including the review of documents and exhibits, use in witness interviewing, expert consultation, and settlement discussions.

Since thousands of judges and court staff members have viewed Courtroom 21 and applied the lessons learned there, many courts now regularly receive testimony in cases through the use of videoconferencing from other countries. Indeed, more than 500 state courtrooms nationwide and 900 federal courtrooms now are considered high-tech in one form or another.

"The use of videoconferencing allows the courts to reduce the time and money associated with transporting prisoners, and it also provides access to witnesses, including experts that, otherwise, may not be able to be part of the hearings," says Courtroom 21's Lederer. "We look forward to continuing our relationship with TANDBERG to ensure that Courtroom 21 remains the premier model of the courtroom of the future."

TANDBERG AND THE FUTURE COURTROOM

Who knows what countless new video-communication applications lie ahead for the

TANDBERG WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Philip Pedersens vei 22
1366 Lysaker, Norway
Tel: +47 67 125 125
Fax: +47 67 125 234
Video: +47 67 117 777
E-mail: tandberg@tandberg.net

200 Park Avenue, Suite 2005
New York, NY U.S.A. 10166
Tel: +1 212 692 6500
Tel: +1 800 538 2884 (toll free in the U.S.)
Fax: +1 212 692 6501
Video: +1 212 692 6535
E-mail: tandberg@tandbergusa.com

www.tandberg.net

TANDBERG CUSTOMER PROFILE

The Courtroom 21 Project at William and Mary

halls of justice? Certainly, a true "virtual courtroom" is likely - a courtroom in which participants, all of whom might be located physically elsewhere, would appear together electronically with each one perceiving the other, and the courtroom, as if they were all in the same physical location.

Courtroom 21's director contends that the technology exists - thanks to TANDBERG and manufacturers of other technology like virtual-reality goggles - to conduct trials completely in cyberspace in virtual courtrooms. But, "people aren't ready for that yet," he acknowledges. And, neither are all lawyers, judges, and other court officials. Successful high-tech courtrooms require enthusiastic judges as well as bench-bar partnerships. But Mr. Lederer believes tomorrow's lawyers will be advocates, having experienced first-hand the benefits of video. Visual-communication and other technology promises to change the very foundation of how law is practiced. Law may move from a very verbal profession begun by Marcus Cicero (106-43 B.C.), the Roman consul and great orator, to an equally visual one.

TANDBERG WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Philip Pedersens vei 22
1366 Lysaker, Norway
Tel: +47 67 125 125
Fax: +47 67 125 234
Video: +47 67 117 777
E-mail: tandberg@tandberg.net

200 Park Avenue, Suite 2005
New York, NY U.S.A. 10166
Tel: +1 212 692 6500
Tel: +1 800 538 2884 (toll free in the U.S.)
Fax: +1 212 692 6501
Video: +1 212 692 6535
E-mail: tandberg@tandbergusa.com

www.tandberg.net