

ELECTRONIC EXHIBITS

SUE NIETO



REASON FOR CHANGE

Nebraska wanted to modernize the way documents flow from one court to another within the state using technology and improving security.

The first process in this change was to modernize the Nebraska Supreme Court Rules.

The changes to the court rules were referred to as the 'Modernization project'.

Mandated that all Nebraska attorney would e-file all new cases and existing pleadings.



Mandated that Court Reporting Personnel had to e-file all bills of exceptions through the Court Document Transfer (CDT) portal.

MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Not all exhibits were in electronic form.



No way to electronically handle audio and video exhibits.

CHALLENGES



1 We need a system that was cloud based.

2 A system that would be used by attorneys, SRL's, court reporting personnel and judges to add efficiency, reduce manual errors, and improve security.

3 A storage place for all types of exhibits, PDF's, audio and video exhibits and eventually to be used for the storage of the verbatim records

4 A system that could be integrated with the current case management system in real time.

REQUIRED

STEPS TAKEN

Committee Formed – To discuss the needs and wants for an electronic digital exhibit repository.

April 2023

October 2023

Requirements – Starting working on a requirement document.

- Needs of the users.
- Needs for court proceedings.

REQUIREMENTS

Attorney & SRL's – at party level

Ability to upload digital exhibits (PDF's, audio and video).

Ability to stage exhibits before a court proceeding.

Ability to request exhibits to be marked and offered for court proceedings.

Ability to grant permission to judges, judicial staff and attorneys to view their exhibits.

Ability to view all exhibits offered and ruled upon by the judge.

REQUIREMENTS

Court Reporting Personnel



Maintain the quality of all exhibits submitted.



Needs to be electronically notify when exhibits have been proposed.



Ability to request exhibits be resubmitted.



Ability to select and review multiple exhibits for quality.



Ability to mark multiple exhibits at one time.



Ability to upload paper exhibits offered and ruled upon post court proceedings.



Ability to view all exhibits offered and ruled upon.



Ability to 'download' exhibits for jury deliberation and for preparation of bill of exceptions.

REQUIREMENTS

Judges

Oversees all exhibits at court proceedings as their being offered to the court.



Ability to rule on the exhibits offered.



Ability to view exhibits, including offered and ruled upon exhibits.

Referee & Judicial Hearing Officer

- Needs same functionality as a judge and court reporting personnel.

PRE-COURT PROCEEDINGS

- Attorneys and SRL's ability to upload and stage exhibits prior to the court proceedings.
- Court Reporting Personnel ability to mark exhibits before or during court proceedings or re-submit back to attorney.
- Court Reporting Personnel will have the ability to assign a block of exhibit numbers to a party.
- Attorneys and SRL's have ability to grant permission to the judge and other parties to the case to see their marked exhibits.
- Attorneys and SRL's have the ability to offer exhibits per-trial.
- Judge has the ability to rule of offered exhibits.

DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS

- Attorneys and SRL's have the ability to open multiple exhibits at the same time that can be easily scrolled through by the judge and/or witness.
- Attorneys and SRL's have the ability to present an exhibit to a witness and the court without displaying to the jury.
- Witnesses have the ability to mark on electronic exhibits. Then those marked exhibits are electronically given another exhibit number.
- Attorneys and SRL's have the ability to offer exhibits at the court proceeding or re-offer an exhibit offered at pre-trial.
- Judge's have the ability to make a final ruling on the exhibit.

POST COURT PROCEEDINGS

- Attorneys, SRL's, Court Reporting Personnel and Judges have the ability to view all offered and ruled upon exhibits.
- Court Reporting Personnel has the ability to upload any paper exhibits that were offered and ruled upon.
- Have a history of the exhibit.
- Court Reporting Personnel have the ability to select exhibits that were published to the jury for deliberations.
- Court Reporting Personnel needs the ability to download exhibits for the bill of exceptions.



THANK YOU