



THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO  
OFFICE OF COURT SERVICES

---

**Improving Court Operations Using Remote Technology (iCOURT) Task Force  
Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2020**

---

Task Force Members in Attendance: Hon. Rocky Coss (*Chair*), Mag. Serpil Ergun (*Vice Chair*), Hon. Craig Baldwin, Douglas Bettis, Hon. Van Blanchard, II, Hon. Theresa Dellick, Justice R. Patrick DeWine, Daniel Driscoll, Hon. Ian English, Douglas Eaton, Hon. Jonathan Hein, Kelli Howard, Robert Incorvati, Maureen Kelly, Nick Lockhart, Haley Martinelli, Ellen McCarthy, Theresa Nelson, Hon. Deborah Nicaastro, Hon. Andrea Peeples, Mag. Paul Rattermann, Kyle Silvers, Mag. Kenneth Teleis, Lori Tyack, and Hon. James Walther

Staff in Attendance: Brian Farrington, Stephanie Nelson, Kyana Pierson, and Robert Stuart

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor provided opening remarks and thanked all the attendees for participating in the task force. She discussed the \$6 million in emergency technology grants that the Supreme Court awarded to local courts in the spring for remote hearings. Chief Justice O'Connor challenged the task force members to examine how courts move forward with the use of technology while also safeguarding due process and access to justice.

Each member of the task force introduced themselves and provided a brief description of the technology that each of their courts were using currently. For example, Judge Dellick talked about purchasing iPads and hot spots to allow parties to participate in their homes or the court's parking lot. Judge Nicaastro discussed a local library expanding its Wi-Fi to the parking lot and a librarian being available to provide assistance in a Zoom room, and Lori Tyack deployed electronic payment kiosks.

Justice DeWine, the Justice Liaison for the task force, addressed the group and relayed conversations with individuals regarding their experiences with using remote technology. He reiterated his interest in the work of the task force and thanked members for participating.

Judge Coss, Chair, reviewed the tasks assigned to the task force and the survey that will be used to gather information from courts. The goal of the survey is to garner feedback from judicial officers and attorneys about their firsthand experiences with virtual court proceedings. Magistrate Ergun, Vice Chair, reviewed the timeline for the task force's work ending with a deadline of the final report being June 30, 2021.

Brian Farrington presented the data presentation, "A Look at the Current Use of Technology by Courts," where he summarized findings from a Supreme Court survey conducted at the end of June. This survey examined the courts' use of remote technology. While the data was valuable,

it was noted that use has significantly increased since the survey was conducted in the summer, but will serve as baseline data for the task force's survey.

Judge Coss, Chair, discussed how the work of the task force will be divided among six subcommittees. These subcommittees will be the following: Appellate, Civil, Civil Trials & Domestic Relations, Criminal & Jury Trials, Juvenile & Probate, and Survey. Each subcommittee will be staffed with a Supreme Court liaison. The goal is for each group to meet at least twice before the next task force meeting in December.

The next meeting will be held virtually on December 14, 2020 from 11:45 to 1:15.