



OVERVIEW

Industry:
Integrated Solution

Organizational Facts:
Maricopa Superior Court -
19 courtrooms.

Environment:
PC's, Mackie 810 Mixers,
Shure microphones,
Crestron control systems
and Crestron video
switchers

- Challenge:**
- Replace existing analog tape audio recording systems with non-proprietary audio/video recording systems
 - Eliminate costs for external media and storage costs
 - Archive and store records on network.

Return on Investment:

- ROI - less than one year
- Eliminated cassette tapes and storage expense
- Easily accessible records

TheRecord Reporter is part of integrated solution that replaces a patchwork of products and systems in 19 court rooms.

Organization Overview

ExhibitOne is a systems integrator that provides audiovisual technology systems and solutions to numerous industries such as federal and state government, medical, financial, education and corporate enterprise. The company has installed over 500 systems in government agencies throughout the U.S., each customized to the individual organization's needs. Since most government projects are decided by competitive bid, ExhibitOne has perfected the art of designing innovative, yet cost effective solutions that win bids, as was the case with the bid to upgrade 19 recording systems for court rooms for Maricopa Superior Court.

Organizational Challenge

During 2004, Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County handled over 136,000 cases in its civil, criminal, family, juvenile, mental health and tax courts. Since the Phoenix area is one of the fastest growing areas in the U.S., the Court is expanding to keep up with the population growth. During 2004, a new Juvenile Court Center with 12 court rooms opened. Satellite courts will open in two suburbs during 2005, and new facilities will open in four other areas during 2006/2007.

The Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County decided to upgrade the recording systems in its 19 existing courtrooms because some of the court rooms were equipped with outdated analog tape recording systems, and a few of the rooms were equipped with a 10-year-old digital audio recording system that had become a burden because it was expensive to maintain and difficult to integrate with the court's other applications and systems. In some cases, court reporters were still used. So, the Court issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) that specified a system that could record both audio and video, was scaleable enough to handle Maricopa Superior Court's growing case volume and future growth plans, and was easy to integrate with the courts' other products and applications. It was also important that the chosen solution be easy for court staffers to learn and use, and that it could archive and store recorded proceedings on a court-wide network so they were easily accessible to the entire staff.

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Technology Solution

After reviewing numerous proposals, the Court chose ExhibitOne's because it specified TheRecord Reporter, an audio/video recording solution supplied by FTR Limited, because its solution offered the most value for the cost, and because ExhibitOne had an exemplary "track record" installing similar systems in other courts. Maricopa County Superior Court knew that FTR was recognized as the market leader in supplying digital audio/video court recording systems because its products were easy for court staffs to use and learn and because they were designed to integrate easily with other products and systems. However, the Court also recognized that TheRecord Reporter was scaleable enough to "grow" with the court's future expansion.

ExhibitOne installed TheRecord Reporter in each court room along with a Mackie 810 mixer and Shure microphones, and integrated each with the PA system. Each installation also includes a Crestron master control system and a Crestron voice-activated video switcher. ExhibitOne programmed each video switcher to work with the microphones so the video image would change depending on where (i.e. from which microphone) the sound was coming from. All recorded audio and video proceedings are stored on an internal network so the entire court staff can retrieve them quickly and easily. Copies of trial records can be burned to CD upon request.

In the new juvenile court building, ExhibitOne also installed TheRecord Director, a companion product to TheRecord Reporter that enables a single court clerk to monitor proceedings in multiple court rooms. As a result, four court clerks can now monitor trials and proceedings in 12 court rooms. In addition to installing similar systems in its new buildings, MCSC's future plans include adding Polycom video conferencing systems along with TrialView™ video presentation systems. TrialView was developed by ExhibitOne and will add multimedia evidence review and 3-D presentation capabilities to each court room.

Operational Results

As a result of ExhibitOne's efforts, the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County has an audio/video recording system that helps the court staff work more efficiently and that integrates easily with existing applications and systems. According to Kevin Sandler, ExhibitOne CEO and President, the Court is the benefactor of a "cutting edge" solution as a result of the efforts of both companies. "Through the combination of FTR's industry-leading digital recording technology and the audiovisual engineering and integration expertise of ExhibitOne, we were able to provide the first audio & video digital recording solution of its kind for the Superior Court in Arizona, Maricopa County," he said.