

Case Study:
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT FILING



TexasOnline eFiling for Courts Modernizes Electronic Document Filing in Texas Courts

In 2005, the National Judiciary College commissioned a national survey to assess the growing trend of eFiling.

Of the 6,000 state trial court judges surveyed, 73% see their caseload increasing and 85% see the volume of paper as a growing problem.



BURIED IN PAPER

Echoing the results of the National Judiciary College survey, Texas is also grappling with the seemingly insurmountable paper problem. Every year, clerks process millions of documents for filing with trial and appellate courts in Texas.

This accumulation of paper creates inefficiency and higher costs for both courts and filers. Processing and storing paper imposes significant burdens on court personnel and facilities. Meanwhile, legal firms and their clients incur added costs for creating, processing, delivering, tracking, and storing these documents.

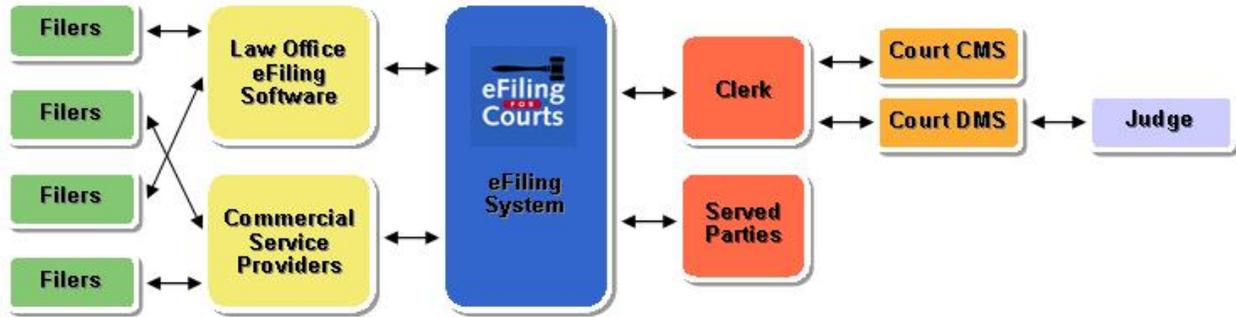
"We were literally running out of filing space. Judge Dietz and I sought a solution. eFiling seemed to be the answer since Travis County was already using eCourts, so eFiling was a natural progression."

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Austin, Texas

ELECTRONIC EVOLUTION

There is, however, a solution to the paper problem in Texas—an evolution to electronic document filing, or eFiling.

Featuring an innovative business model, TexasOnline eFiling for Courts was developed, quite simply, to enable clerks to process documents and fees electronically.



The process flow for electronic filing.

While a paperless court may have seemed beyond reach, for many clerks it is an emerging reality. Today, over 250 district, county, and probate courts in Texas have successfully implemented the TexasOnline eFiling system and are experiencing first-hand the advantages of [eFiling for Courts](#).

[eFiling for Courts](#) is a secure, easy-to-use electronic filing system that streamlines and manages the two-way flow of information among attorneys, clerks, court personnel, and judges.

For a clerk, the manual, paper-based filing process encompasses many steps including: reviewing, stamping, barcoding, unstapling, scanning, and indexing documents.

With electronic filing, the eFiling for Courts system exports directly to an existing document management system (DMS). This interface allows the DMS to barcode, index, and store each electronic filing automatically, thus reducing the amount of time clerk and court personnel spend on these activities. The data can also be moved into an existing case management system (CMS).

PLEASING THE JUDGE

Judges are also benefiting from the efficiency that electronic filing offers. Via the interface between eFiling for Courts and the court's DMS, judges can view eFiled documents much more quickly than paper filings.

"With a manual filing system, the problem is the lag time between the documents' arrival at the clerk's office and when we are able to view them. This becomes critical in cases involving children or emergency matters. With eFiling, we can significantly reduce the amount of processing time within the clerk's office which allows us to see documents in minutes rather than days."

THE HONORABLE JOHN K. DIETZ
250th Judicial Civil District Court
Austin, Texas



eFILING FOR COURTS IN ACTION

In 2006, the Travis County District Clerk's office measured the time required to process a manual filing versus an electronic filing. The clerk randomly selected cases that had been filed in paper and electronic formats.

- ✓ Manually, the time required to process a filing—from receipt of the document until it was available to the judge in the document management system—was between two to three days.
- ✓ With [eFiling for Courts](#), the filing was available to the judge in the document management system, on average, in less than 30 minutes.



ABOUT TEXASONLINE

BearingPoint, Inc. and Microsoft created [eFiling for Courts](#) for the State of Texas as an integral service offered by TexasOnline.

Developed through a unique public/private partnership between BearingPoint, Inc. and the State of Texas. TexasOnline is the state's award winning, official e-government business portal.

In 2006, TexasOnline was named the best state e-government site in Brown University's international study of digital government.

BENEFITS OF eFILING FOR COURTS

- **Eliminate scanning**
Documents are delivered in electronic format, ready for uploading to an existing case, document, or imaging management system.
- **Calculate fees automatically**
[eFiling for Courts](#) eliminates manual fee corrections or miscalculations that tend to occur with manual filings.
- **After-hours accessibility**
Clerks receive electronic filings into the system even when the courthouse is closed.
- **Direct payment of fees**
[eFiling for Courts](#) collects fees and provides guaranteed payment directly to the clerk's account.
- **Process filings securely**
The [eFiling for Courts](#) portal is single, safe, and secure.
- **Flexible**
Clerks select the back office CMS/DMS vendor of choice
- **Minimal impact on IT**
TexasOnline staff manage the website, as well as related hardware and software.

"From the Clerk's perspective, eFiling provides the greatest benefit when used in concert with a document management system. There is never any reason to convert an efiled document into paper."

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Austin, Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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