



State of Illinois  
Circuit Court of Cook County  
Information Services

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Chief Judge

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**April 10, 2024**

Kevin B. Morrison  
Cook County Commissioner (15<sup>th</sup> District)  
Chairman – Technology and Innovation Committee

Sean Morrison  
Cook County Commissioner (17<sup>th</sup> District)  
Vice Chairman – Technology and Innovation Committee

Re: Major Technology Projects Report

Dear Chairman Morrison and Vice Chairman Morrison,

Please find below a listing of the Court’s major technology projects for FY2024.

Project	Project Description
Courthouse WIFI Project	<p>In 2022, The Illinois Supreme Court authorized funding for the Circuit Court of Cook County to receive \$833,025.48 through its Court Technology Modernization Program to expand wireless internet access employees and the public at each court facility throughout the County. As such, 825 Wireless Access points were purchased to cover expansion at the Daley Center, Chicago Branch Courts, <b>Domestic Violence Courthouse</b> and Suburban District Courthouses in <b>Skokie</b>, Rolling Meadows, <b>Maywood</b>, Bridgeview and Markham. Each facility has an approved CIP which is now being managed by Capital Planning, Department of Facilities Management and the Network Control Center.</p> <p>To date, the locations in bold type above have been completed. Markham is currently in progress. They Daley Center WIFI project is now fully funded and Transwestern is underway with the engineering contracts.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion: County Facilities (December 2024) and Daley</b></p>

	<b>Center (December 2025)</b>
Courtroom AV/IT Upgrades	<p>The Office of the Chief Judge is leading a \$20.5 Million collaborative effort with the State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Offices Under the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, to provide state-of-the-art evidence presentation technology in all criminal, civil and traffic courtrooms throughout Cook County to improve equitable access to justice and ADA accessibility in the courtroom. The initial procurement will include hiring a consultant to develop a set of standardized specifications for systems and equipment to be implemented by Courtroom Type throughout the entire court system.</p> <p>The project is expected to take approximately 5 years to implement this system throughout 400 courtrooms spanning 14 court locations.</p> <p>The scope of work will include the implementation and integration of all new technology and AV systems in every courtroom throughout the Cook County Court System. Each Courtroom System will include components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Assisted Listening System;</li> <li>-Voice reinforcement including microphones, speakers, side bar / white noise capabilities, audio mixers,</li> <li>-Technology integration with video conferencing platforms to support hybrid proceedings.</li> <li>-Evidence presentation including presentation screens/monitors, projector, document camera, VHS/DVD player, touch screen annotation with screen capture, monitors for presenter, judge, witness and possibly jury;</li> <li>-Cable connections at litigation tables, integration with lighting controls (if applicable);</li> <li>-Interpreters interface including in-person interpreter and remote interpreter / language line use;</li> <li>-Court Reporter interface and optionally and Electronic Digital Court Recording System (i.e Illinois Supreme Court system)</li> <li>-Printer,</li> <li>-Wireless Internet including internal Cook County private network and public access network;</li> <li>-Wired Data Ports; Phone / VOIP needs including locations in courtroom and Conference call capabilities (video or just voice);</li> </ul> <p>The project will adhere to the Illinois Supreme Court's Minimum Courtroom Technology Standards and the project team will seek guidance from the National Center of State Courts as to best practices for use of the technology.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion: Pending Release of Solicitation of RFQ by Procurement Office.</b></p>

<p>Mainframe and IBM iSeries (AS400) Application Migration</p>	<p>The Court continues to migrate its applications and databases from the Mainframe and IBM iSeries servers which are contractually hosted by Ensono (formerly Acxiom). The major system remaining on the mainframe is the Jury Administration System, which is being redeveloped by in-house application developers. Smaller applications also reside on the AS/400 servers that are also being redeveloped. The court also has a dependency of the State’s Attorney’s Office to implement its new juvenile case management system in order to decommission current integrations between the SAO, Clerk of Court, Juvenile Probation and JTDC on the AS/400.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion: December 2024 (Off Mainframe and AS/400)</b></p>
<p>Courtroom Hybrid Technology</p>	<p>In support of Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45- Remote Appearances in Circuit Court Proceedings, the Court is in the process of installing the necessary hardware for to provide hybrid remote/in-person access to courts. In 2022, the Illinois Supreme Court funded hybrid equipment (including Meeting Owls and Mobile TVs on Carts) for 112 courtrooms. For FY2023, the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized and Capital Appropriation to purchase and install hybrid equipment for an additional 263 courtrooms. Installation will continue through the remainder of this year.</p> <p><b>Project Completed: September 2023</b></p>
<p>Courtroom Bench Laptops</p>	<p>On February 28, 2023, the Illinois Supreme Court, through its Court Technology Modernization Program, approved \$1,043,596.00 for the court to upgrade the bench laptop computers in every courtroom. Laptops will include a docking station that expands the ability to connect peripheral hybrid technology equipment to the laptop. Funding also includes a second retractable monitor to provide judges with two screens while maintaining full line of site into the courtroom.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion Date: September 2024</b></p>
<p>Computer Refresh</p>	<p>The Court routinely updates computer equipment that is beyond its useful life cycle. For FY2024, the Cook County Board of Commissioners appropriated Capital Funding for the court in the amount of \$834,400.00 to purchase new computers, monitors, laptops and printers for the judiciary and the departments under the auspices of the Chief Judge.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion Date: December 2024</b></p>
<p>New Circuit Court Website</p>	<p>In December 2022, the County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the Clarity Partner’s Contract to enable the Court to redesign its website and bring it in line with the technologies used by the county and various agencies. The Court’s current website is hosted by a third party, was developed over 10 years ago and is out of support. The new website is being developed using Drupal’s Open Source CMS Software and will now be hosted on the County’s shared Acquia hosting platform.</p> <p><b>Estimated Project Completion Date: April 2024</b></p>

Pubic Guardian New Juvenile Case Management System.	The Public Guardian's Office is in process of negotiating a competitively bid case management system for its juvenile guardianship division. The projected 5-year cost of the system is \$1.7 Million.  <b>Estimated Project Completion Date: December 2025</b>
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If the Chair, Vice Chair or any members of the committee have any questions, please feel free to email me, and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Carroll

Director, Information Services

Office of the Chief Judge

Circuit Court of Cook County

Cc: Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge  
Eileen Heisler, Assistant to the Chief Judge  
Stephen Brandt, Director - Legal Research, Office of the Chief Judge  
John Hourihane – Executive Officer