



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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High-Tech Courtroom Opens in Westchester County Supreme Court

White Plains, New York – A state-of-the-art courtroom designed to speed the progress of complex commercial cases is now up and running in Westchester County Supreme Court’s Commercial Division, which serves as a forum for the resolution of complicated business disputes. The Division’s Integrated Courtroom Technology (ICT) part, located in Westchester County’s Supreme and County Courthouse in White Plains, has been specially outfitted to ease the handling of complex commercial cases, with such features as:

- A tech-based evidence system that enhances the presentation of evidence, permitting attorneys to display physical and electronic evidence – and witnesses to annotate the evidence – in a controlled fashion to all court participants
- Wireless internet access for all courtroom participants, including secure wi-fi access for judges with state-issued “smart” tablets and laptops
- Advanced acoustical elements to ensure proper sound levels throughout the courtroom, including assistive-listening aids for hearing-impaired individuals
- Real-time court reporting capabilities for instantaneous voice-to-text transcription
- Advanced audio-recording equipment
- Audio-visual conferencing capabilities

The White Plains ICT part seamlessly incorporates multiple high-tech components in a modular, user-friendly platform designed to ensure full access to all court participants. The New

York Courts' first ICT part opened in Westchester, in Yonkers Family Court in 2016. The new White Plains high-tech courtroom is the latest in a series of technological advances introduced over the years by the New York State Supreme Court's Commercial Division, which in addition to Westchester County operates in Albany, Kings, Nassau, New York, Onondaga and Queens counties and in the State's Seventh Judicial District and Eighth Judicial District.

"Keeping New York's pioneering Commercial Division at the cutting edge, the newly initiated ICT part in White Plains will enable more efficient, effective case management in complicated business disputes, better serving the justice needs of New York's business community and supporting the State's role as a global commercial hub," said Ninth Judicial District Administrative Judge Alan D. Scheinkman, who led the launch of the futuristic courtroom.

"This ICT part in the Commercial Division in Westchester permits the attorneys to bring the evidence up close and personal to the judge and the jury. A better view of the evidence by all leads to a more effective presentation of the evidence and therefore a better trial," said Sharon M. Porcellio, Esq., of Bond, Schoeneck & King, who co-chairs the Commercial Division Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Use of Technology in Commercial Cases.

"The Westchester Supreme Court ICT part is a major advantage for the court users in this county. This technology makes the litigation of complex cases more user-friendly. The attorneys, litigants and jurors have a first-class facility to work and serve in, and this can only help to benefit all that use the courts," said Mark P. Weingarten, Esq., a partner at DelBello, Donnellan, Weingarten, Wise and Wiedekehr, LLP, whose firm is a frequent litigator in the Commercial Division in Westchester.

On Thursday, January 18, the Business and Commercial Law Section of the Westchester County Bar Association will sponsor a CLE titled "Integrated Courtroom Technology: Evidence Presentation and Video Conferencing in the Courts." It will be one credit in Law Practice Management. There will be a reception from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and the CLE will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. in Courtroom 105 of the Westchester County Supreme Court, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, White Plains, NY. (For inquiries about the CLE program, contact the Westchester County Bar Association: 914-761-3707).

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