

1993

National Demonstration of Courtroom 21

William & Mary Law School

Repository Citation

William & Mary Law School, "National Demonstration of Courtroom 21" (1993). *Other Events & Lectures*. 15.
https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/events_other/15

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National Demonstration of Courtroom 21

**McGlothlin Moot Courtroom
The College of William and Mary**

December 3, 1993

Mission Statement

Located in the McGlothlin Moot Courtroom of the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Courtroom 21, "The Courtroom of the 21st Century Today," demonstrates the economical, efficient, and productive use of today's mainstream high technology in a realistic integrated courtroom setting. In doing so, it shows the time and resource savings and increased procedural reliability that can be gained by the installation and use of sound technology. Through its placement in one of the nation's leading law schools, this innovative project not only serves a vital educational function for tomorrow's lawyers and judges but also permits critical experimentation to determine the legal and practical implications of modern court technology.

Our institutional and corporate sponsors and supporters are committed to the project's continual incremental improvement and technological upgrade to ensure that it remains current with technological progress.

Supporting Companies

Court Technologies, Incorporated
Dell Computer Corporation
Doar Communications, Inc.
Folio Corporation
Mead Data Central
Quixote Corporation
Shure Brothers Incorporated
Stenograph Corporation
Stenograph Legal Services, Incorporated

Program

Welcome by Larry L. Sipes
President, National Center for State Courts

The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Harry Carrico
Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Timothy J. Sullivan
President, The College of William & Mary in Virginia

The Honorable A. Linwood Holton, Jr.
Former Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Introduction of Honored Guests by President Sullivan

Fredric I. Lederer
Professor of Law, The College of William & Mary in Virginia

Demonstration

Question and Answer Session (time permitting)

Reception at the National Center for State Courts

Host

Paul Marcus

*Acting Dean and Haynes Professor of Law
Marshall-Wythe School of Law*

Honored Guests

Nicholas Katzenbach

Former Attorney General of the United States

Joseph Steele

President, Conference of State Court Administrators

Robert Wilburn

President, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

State v. Garnet

Case Summary

Wythe v. Garnet is a simulated case that has been written to help demonstrate the technological capabilities of Courtroom 21. Because of limited time, we will not present the case itself. Instead, we will use the case description as a vehicle for showing how modern technology works within the trial courtroom.

Pat Garnet has been charged with the murder of Alex Frye. As Garnet was driving his automobile home from work he was delayed by a highway accident. Frye's car then cut ahead of Garnet. Garnet objected loudly with his horn. Frye's wife, who was driving Frye's car, then insulted Garnet by "giving him the finger." Angry, Garnet struck the rear bumper of Frye's car. Frye and Garnet then got out of their cars. They argued, and Garnet hit Frye with a baseball bat. Frye, severely injured, stumbled back into his car where he subsequently died. Because Frye's car, driven by his wife, then hit the highway wreck, the cause of death is unclear. Did Frye die as a result of the beating or of the later accident? The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Garnet hit Frye with the bat and that Frye died as a result.

Corporate Representatives

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Pat Lutza

P&A Court Reporters

Joini Lyman

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Courtroom Capabilities

- remote CTI two way television arraignment and witness examination;
- LEXIS legal research at bench and counsel tables;
- information storage and presentation via FolioViews;
- concurrent (real time) Stenograph court reporter transcription, including the ability for each lawyer to mark an individual computerized copy for later use;
- Doar real time or recorded televised evidence display with analog optical disk storage;
- built-in video deposition playback facilities;
- automatic Court Technologies, micro-chip controlled, multi-camera, multi-frame, video recording of proceedings using ceiling mounted cameras and voice initiated switching; optional synchronization to the real time transcript
- text, graphics, and TV capable jury computers.
- concurrent computer displayed Stenograph transcription for hearing-impaired witnesses, jurors, lawyers, and judges.

The Importance of Courtroom 21

The most technologically advanced courtroom in the world, Courtroom 21 was developed by the College of William & Mary in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts and is affiliated with the Center's Court Technology Laboratory.

Intended as both a national demonstration site and an actual instructional facility for William & Mary law students and visiting judges and court administrators, the courtroom uses only commercially available, reasonably priced, technology and is sure to become a powerful model for our nation's courts. Instant access to LEXIS and creative use of FolioViews permits more accurate resolution of unforeseen legal matters. Meanwhile, real-time Stenograph transcription coupled with the easy ability to display, via Doar Presenter and other techniques, video and computer images should improve speed and accuracy.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the courtroom is the integrated nature of its technology. The sum of the various different technologies is both greater than and different from the individual products and services incorporated. The combination of traditional written transcript with a multiple frame video record, for example, may suggest reexamination of appellate review standards. Traditionally appellate courts have deferred to trial judges on issues of witness credibility because only they, and not appellate judges, were able to observe trial witness demeanor.

New technology holds both promise and risk. Remote lawyer appearances and remote witness examination, for example, offer time and money savings of extraordinary importance but with unknown human and legal consequences. Courtroom 21 permits early experimentation in the field so that use parameters can be determined before commercial use of the technology is offered to the nation's courts.