



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Seattle Municipal Court Launches Electronic Case Files***

Joining other courts locally and nationally, Seattle Municipal Court has moved from paper case files to an electronic case file system. The Court's Electronic Case File system (ECF) stores case files electronically and case documents can be accessed online in the courtroom and remotely by court staff, attorneys and the public.

The third phase in a four phase move to an electronic courtroom, the ECF system will increase transparency, accountability and customer service at the Court. The transition from paper to electronic court files is an opportunity to streamline internal processes, resulting in increased courtroom efficiency, case processing timeliness, and case file accuracy. Reducing the use of paper demonstrates the Court's commitment to environmental responsibility. In the next phase, many Court forms will be completed electronically, further reducing the need for paper and increasing efficiency.

Judge Karen Donohue, the project lead, says *"ECF is more than getting rid of paper. When we do our work with greater transparency, efficiency and accountability, we're deepening our service to our mission – justice with integrity."*

Public documents for cases filed after June 23, 2014 are available via the Court's webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/courts/ecf/ecf.htm>.

Attorneys practicing in Seattle Municipal Court may access case file documents and submit certain filings electronically by creating an account via the Court's ECF Web Portal: <http://www.seattle.gov/courts/ecf/AboutPortal.htm#signup>.

#### **About Seattle Municipal Court**

Seattle Municipal Court processes more cases than any other municipal court in the State of Washington with seven elected Judges and five appointed Magistrates. The Court adjudicates all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes, infractions, and civil violations authorized under the Seattle Municipal Code and certain Revised Code of Washington statutes. For more information visit: [www.seattle.gov/courts](http://www.seattle.gov/courts).

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