INDIANA Marion County Superior & Circuit Courts Community Justice Campus (CJC Indy)



LOCATION COURT JURISDICTIONS PROJECT STATUS Indianapolis, Indiana Criminal, Civil, Family Completed May 2022

PROJECT VISION

The project sought to unite justice partners in a contemporary, data-driven endeavor to holistically reform the Indianapolis justice system.

PROJECT DETAILS

This ambitious project involved the development of a community justice campus bringing together community partners dedicated to a modern, holistic, data-driven approach to the Indianapolis justice system. The campus features the Marion County Courthouse, Adult and Juvenile Probation, an Assessment and Intervention Center, an Adult Depention Center, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and other related justice system services and offices that strengthen and reimagine Indianapolis' criminal justice system. At the new courthouse, every courtroom was equipped with technology to automate court recordings and allow for hybrid hearings with remote witness testimony. Specific technology features included direct connectivity with the adjacent jail, on-demand audio recordings of all public court hearings, automated courtroom scheduling, digitized evidence and display for both jury and bench trials, enhanced security and access control systems, and efficient juror evidence review protocols. To improve accessibility and wayfinding, the Court installed digital wayfinding kiosks on all floors, digital signage of courtrooms and slates within each courtroom, signage at the courthouse entrance, a manned information desk, and a system to pay court fees and fines online or in person at a window or kiosk. Kiosks were made available across the justice campus for probationers to use for simple activities like checking in, paying fees, or





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updating information and at five other locations throughout the city. By providing free access to training on courtroom technology to local colleges and the law school as well as to any attorney, law firm, or justice partner entity, the Court helps users get ready for presenting a case in court. The Courthouse is also now available as a disaster recovery site for the US Federal Court, the Indiana Supreme Court, and other county courts.

ENHANCING OPERATIONS AND THE OVERALL BUILDING EXPERIENCE

The new courthouse has 71 fully functional courtrooms, each having a consistent base level of technology. For example, a user-friendly digital evidence display system allows attorneys and self-represented litigants to provide evidence for their cases to the judiciary. All public court recordings are available at no charge. A digitized recording system that allows for a voice recording application is available to court reporters to assist with transcriptions. The courtroom technology is simple to use, and litigants can display evidence from their devices and phones. With embedded Cisco Webex Pro devices, court staff can help litigants attend hearings that are being remotely conducted. Inmates in jail or with health conditions can attend remote hearings reducing continuances.

The Court implemented new procedures and significant organizational changes in planning for the project. For example, the Court moved to a master calendar assignment system enabled by a flexible courtroom assignment policy, and all judicial officers work in a collegial environment with support staff working in common open-office environments. Most court staff work in an open environment and share an array of amenities including shared focus rooms and huddle rooms, flexible work and communal areas, and shared interview rooms where staff can meet with clients in a secure area away from other staff work areas.



