

**RALPH N. KLEPS AWARDS
2010 – 2011**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ORANGE COUNTY
Electronic Legal Filing (ELF)**

SPEAKER: Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock, Judge – Superior Court of Orange County
The Orange County Superior Court has the civil electronic legal file, otherwise known as Civil ELF Electronic Docket. And this is a user friendly interface for judges and staff to gain access to court documents in all of our civil cases, including complex and civil general cases.

SPEAKER: Deborah Kruse, Courtroom Operations Manager – Orange County
ELF is actually an expedient, simple case file access in an electronic fashion, where we no longer maintain hard copy case files. And staff, judicial officers, legal research attorneys, can all access case file information electronically on screen.

SPEAKER: Hon. Kim Dunning, Judge – Superior Court of Orange County
We have also been imaging our civil documents for a decade now. We knew we wanted to move into a paper on demand environment. We didn't want to keep paper files in our civil, complex civil, unlimited, limited, small claims. We didn't want to keep the paper files anymore.

SPEAKER: Snorri Ortega, Chief Technology Officer – Orange County
About a year and a half ago, the court made a decision to make the electronic record the official record of the court. So it eliminated the need for us to maintain and store paper. That turned into significant cost savings for us. Most technology solutions are optimized for the clerk's office and not oriented towards the judge. But when you look at what the judge needs, it's very different. While they need the data that is associated with the case, they primarily work against documents and advice that comes to them in the form of legal research attorney write ups.

SPEAKER: Sharah Reid, Sr. Research Attorney – Orange County
ELF provides a place where research attorneys can view many documents all in one place. They can get so much information from one screen, as opposed to filtering and querying in the case management system.

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Basically, from a judge perspective, what we asked for was that you would have a calendar printed based on the V3, and on the calendar you had the case number and all you had to do was click on the case number, and then the entire electronic file would appear. So this is the perfect blend of the case management system and the document management system.

SPEAKER: Sarah Reid, Sr. Research Attorney – Orange County
I can plan ahead by looking at the calendar in an electronic legal file. I can view the cases, all of the images. I can prepare my work up and upload it into ELF for the judicial officer's review.

SPEAKER: Hon. Kim Dunning, Judge – Superior Court of Orange County
That gives us, in reverse chronological order, an electronic format with basically a table of contents. It replaces the paper file. All you have to do is scroll down the left side of the screen and you can find any document that you want. You can see who filed it. But all you have to do is click on it, and the document opens.

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And I can come in the morning and pull up a screen that represents my entire calendar: that day, this week, next month, next year. It doesn't matter. I have complete access to all of the information in all of my cases.

SPEAKER: Snorri Ortega, Chief Technology Officer – Orange County
We've been able to take the solution to a point that the judge experience is optimized to what they want. If they want to live all electronic, they can live electronic. If they like the comfort of the paper, they can have the comfort of the paper. If they want to live somewhere in between, we can accommodate them.

SPEAKER: Deborah Kruse, Courtroom Operations Manager – Orange County
We reduce all those hands on the file. We create an environment where the file is available to multiple people at multiple workstations simultaneously. We no longer cart those files around to multiple locations. We don't have to do that. We also had savings due to the fact that our records division no longer has to file documents into the case file. And we do not have to file those case files back onto the shelves.

SPEAKER: Hon. Kim Dunning, Judge – Superior Court of Orange County
We're expanding it onto family law, where we had been imaging documents for a great number of years. We're going to move it into criminal and juvenile. And it is tied to the CCMS so that as our court moves onto V4, we will also be able to utilize every iteration of ELF for every case type. It will be a great complement to V4 and the case management system.