ELECTRONIC FILING& STANDARDIZATION

Christina O'Tousa & J. Peter Letteney

Agenda

- E-filing Basics
- Current Practice in North Carolina
- Inadequacy of Current Practice
- Reasons to Expand E-filing in North Carolina
- Benefits from Expanding E-filing

E-Filing Basics

- Allows litigants to file documents online
- Allows litigants and the court to access documents online
- Streamlines service and dissemination of filings, orders, and opinions

Current Practice in NC

- Business Court started using e-filing in 1996
- NC Appellate courts started allowing e-filing in 1999
- Very small 'pilot' project on e-filing

Court Caseloads (FY 2014-2015)

- Business Court 231 total cases
- Appellate Courts 1600 total cases
- Superior Courts 17k civil cases
- District Courts 183k civil cases

Problems with Paper Filing

- Far less accessible to litigants
- Vulnerable to destruction
- Prone to error
- Inefficient
- Expensive

The Status Quo is Inadequate

- Inefficient
- Direct costs on courts for maintenance and storage
- Costs to businesses
- Costs to individual litigants

E-Filing is a Win-Win-Win-Win

- For Litigants
- For the Courts
- For the Legislature
- For the Taxpayer

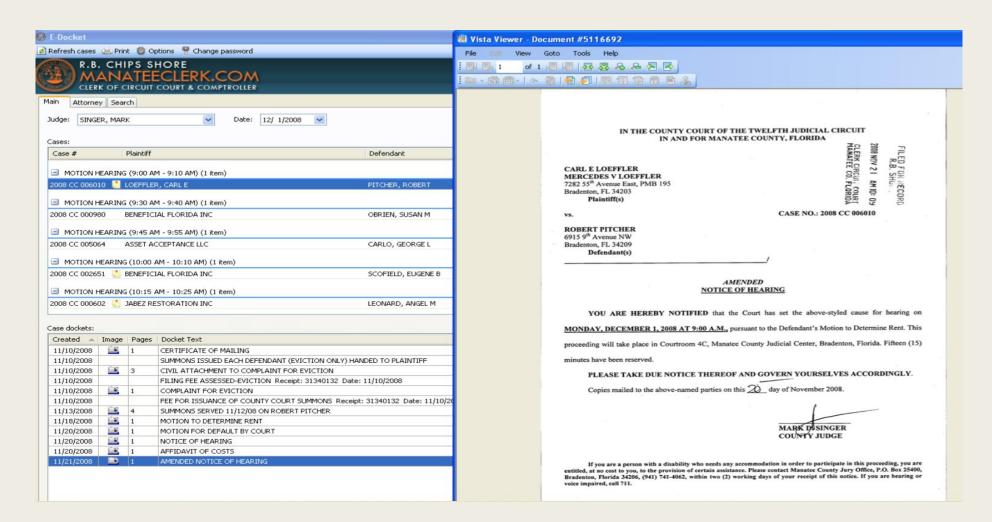
The Legislature Should Take Action

- State-wide e-filing will only happen with funding from the Legislature
- This is a popular proposal

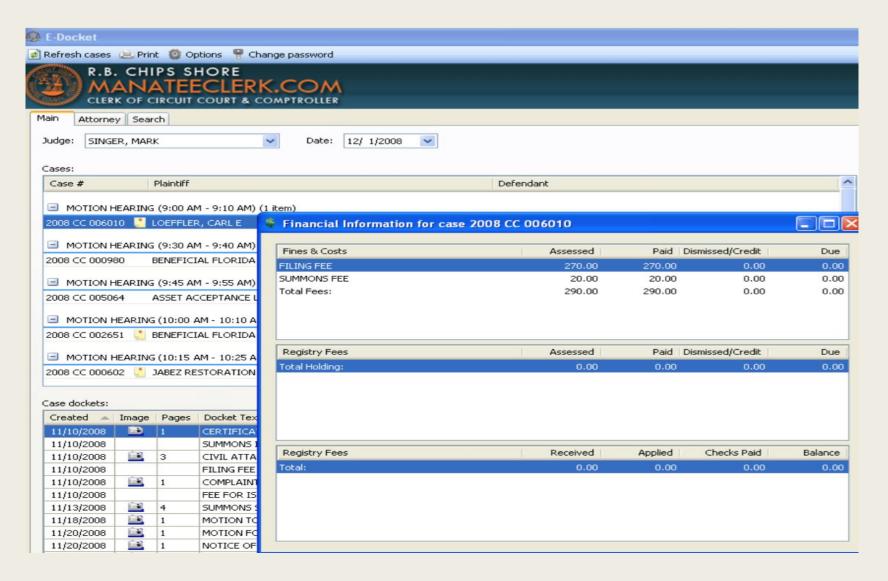
E-Filing Practice Recommendations

- Expand access to e-filing in court rules
- Retain voluntary paper filing
- Integrate e-filing with a case management system
- Provide a publically accessible document library
- Waive e-filing fees for the indigent
- Use the e-filing system to collect data for future improvements

View Daily Calendar & Examine Documents from the Docket



Integration of Financial Information



NCSC and Court of Appeals Document Library Search Field

| Search Document Library | |
|---|---|
| Search Fields | Values |
| Attorney's First Name: Attorney's Last Name: Case Number: Case Title: Party Name: Filed After (date): Filed Before (date): File Type: Court: Search Condition: Search Type: | mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy Any Type Either And Or Approximate Exact Search |

Example of Data Collection Dashboard



