

Statewide e-Filing kicks off with Probate

Last year's legislative session resulted in a mandate for Clerks to begin implementing a statewide e-filing system by October 1, 2009.

In response to the legislation, the Supreme Court created a subcommittee of the Technology Commission to address the requirements of the statewide e-filing system. As Clerk of the Circuit Court, I was appointed to serve on the subcommittee, which is chaired by 11th Circuit Judge Judith Kreeger. The Chair, with the support of the Technology Commission, has identified probate as the first court area to implement a statewide e-filing system. The subcommittee is represented by Judges, Clerks and members of the bar.

The intent of a statewide system is to provide the same look and feel for e-filed documents in all the Clerk's offices throughout the state. The system is being referred to as the State E-filing Portal. Any clerk that already has an e-filing system will be required to modify their system to enable e-filing to occur through the state portal. It is likely that e-filing will become mandatory.

The subcommittee is currently trying to identify the data elements necessary for the court to carry out its responsibilities. This is being done by reviewing all the probate forms currently in use. Once the data elements have been identified, Clerks will capture these data elements through the filing of the electronic document containing the data elements, and store them in the case maintenance systems.

Once the probate area of the courts is fully implemented, the Court intends to begin with other areas of the court.

Anyone interested in more detail, please feel free to call us and we'll be happy to provide you with as much information as we have regarding this matter. As always, members of the Clerk's office appreciate the input, patience and support of the Sarasota County Bar Association. We hope you find our enhanced products and services valuable. Please contact my office at (941) 861-7605 or clerkinfo@scgov.net if we can be of further assistance.