

e-Portal finally coming:

An integral part of the new electronic filing system for state courts

In recent months, Florida's Court Clerks and the Judiciary have made noted progress towards implementing the long-awaited statewide e-portal for electronic document filing. In January, I represented the Florida Association of Court Clerks (FACC) and joined 11th Circuit Judge Judith Kreeger, the chair of the Florida Courts Technology Commission—a group which is overseeing not only the implementation of electronic filing, but the broader issue of electronic access to court records—as we addressed the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee to announce that the two groups were collaborating, and shared the same Legislative goal to fully implement a statewide electronic filing system by fall 2010.

The e-filing portal is designed to allow attorneys a single “doorway” for filing all documents and paying their filing fees in any circuit, county, or state district courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court of the state of Florida.

The Supreme Court has organized workgroups lead by the judiciary to establish the standards for e-filing for each case type. The probate standards are now under consideration, and the dependency standards are in the process of being developed.

The objective of the e-filing portal is to create a unified approach to all filings throughout the state, and to reduce the overall costs of managing the documents that are filed with the court. Stay tuned for additional information about the availability of the e-portal in months to come. ###