

# Florida Courts



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October 5, 2012

Chief Justice Ricky Polston  
Florida Supreme Court  
500 S Duval St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chief Justice Polston,

I am writing to you as the chair of the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board of Directors. The purpose of this letter is to communicate the status of the Florida Courts ePortal, for both trial and appellate courts, as directed in Administrative Order SC11-399, dated September 19, 2012.

The ePortal began transmitting court documents in January 2011 and is fully deployed and fully capable of accepting electronic filings in all of the trial court divisions (Circuit Criminal, County Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminal Traffic, Civil Traffic, Circuit Civil, County Civil, Probate, Family, and Juvenile Dependency). In 2012 more than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) cases with more than two hundred thousand (200,000) associated documents have been filed through the ePortal.

As of October 1, 2012, fifty-two (52) Clerks of Court have established live eFiling capability for civil cases in the trial courts. The remaining fifteen (15) are progressing with implementing eFiling capability (please see attached Readiness Report). The delay in implementing these remaining counties is due to migration to new Case Management Systems (CMS) or implementing new CMS features to accommodate eFiling through the ePortal. Additionally, many of the remaining counties have established eFiling capability in one or more divisions and are working to complete the implementation for all five (5) designated civil trial court divisions.

There are presently four (4) Clerks of Court who have established eFiling capability in the criminal trial court divisions. Work is also progressing with State Attorney and Public Defender offices to develop and implement bulk eFiling through the ePortal. This work is being coordinated by the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC) between the Clerks of Court, State Attorney, and Public Defender offices and their vendors.

The development of new functionality for eFiling cases on appeal to the Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal continues, but has not yet been implemented. This ePortal work is being coordinated between the FCCC and the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) to finalize and implement the

required functionality for the ePortal to transmit, and for the Electronic Florida Appellate Courts Technology Solution (eFACTS) system to receive, eFiled appellate cases. Testing to receive appellate court eFilings from the portal into eFACTS has been successful. End-to-end testing of all functionality has not yet been conducted since additional coding is required in eFACTS, as well as in the portal. This new ePortal appellate functionality will be implemented in a phased-in approach, beginning with the Supreme Court in December 2012 and each District Court of Appeal following in 2013 (please see attached Readiness Report). In December 2012, the Supreme Court will be able to accept eFilings for Original Proceedings and both Appeal and Discretionary jurisdiction (except for the actual notice of appeal and notice to invoke discretionary jurisdiction), and subsequent eFilings for Original Proceedings, Discretionary jurisdiction, and Appeal jurisdiction. As with the rollout of eFiling at the trial court level, it will be on a voluntary basis, with a limited number of attorneys filing, for at least 90 days.

In summary, the Florida Courts ePortal is fully implemented and fully capable of transmitting electronically filed court documents for each of the trial courts. This capability will be extended to the appellate courts, in a phased approach, from December 2012 to December 2013.

Please note that the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board of Directors will meet next Friday, October 12, 2012. As such, this report is on our agenda for review and consideration. In the event that any amendment to this report is required, I will send it at that time.

On behalf of the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board of Directors, I wish to acknowledge all of the collaborative efforts between the courts, the clerks, and partnering organizations that have made the ePortal successful.

Sincerely,



Tim Smith, Chair  
Florida Courts E-Filing Authority  
Putnam County Clerk of the Circuit Court

CC: Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board of Directors  
Hon. Lisa T. Munyon, Chair, Florida Courts Technology  
Hon. Thomas D. Hall, Clerk of the Supreme Court  
Ms. Lisa Goodner, the State Courts Administrator  
Hon. Becky Norris, President, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers  
Mr. Kenneth A. Kent, Executive Director, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers