

CMI Courtroom Q&A

1. What is CMI?

Chief Judge DiFiore announced the Courtroom Modernization Initiative (CMI) during her 2019 State of Our Judiciary Address, setting forth the goal to modernize 1,400 courtrooms and hearing rooms throughout New York State. This courtroom is among the first courtrooms in New York State that meet the minimum CMI standard by including a high-speed Wi-Fi Internet connection, a functional audio system, and electrical outlets as well as charging stations for the counsel tables. Additionally, a mobile evidence presentation system with videoconferencing capability is made available to the courtroom.

2. Is internet access available within the courtroom?

A dedicated Wi-Fi Access Point has been installed in this courtroom. Attorneys and members of the public can access **free** Internet service from their laptops/tablets or smartphones. However, please follow court rules on the usage of electronic devices during court proceeding. Look for SSID "Public_Access" in your Wi-Fi settings to connect. To learn more about Internet Access

3. What are the charging options available for attorneys?

For your convenience, there is a power charging station providing standard 110AC outlets and USB charging ports on the podium or the counsel tables. You may charge your laptops/tablets or smartphones. However, you should bring your own USB charging cable.

4. What is the 86" touch screen for?

The height-adjustable 86" mobile touch screen is ideal for attorneys who intend to present electronic evidence with crystal clear image quality, providing the ability to zoom in and zoom out with ease, and with the capability to make annotations on screen, which are temporary but maybe presented. Evidence may be presented from DVD's, flash drives or by using the digital overhead projector.

To learn more about the touch screen and the mobile stand

5. What are attorneys required to bring to the courtroom for evidence presentation?

The touch screen display is powered by a Windows 10 PC. A dedicated USB port and a CD/DVD player are included in the configuration. Common file formats, including those for video and audio clips, photos, pdf files, Microsoft Office documents (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), as well as standard medical images, are all supported. Unless you are an experienced user, please arrange test your media and become acquainted with the evidence presentation system in advance of using it, to ensure a successful presentation.

To learn more about using USB Flash Drive and CD/DVD Player for evidence presentation

6. Can evidence stored in the cloud or social media be presented in the courtroom?

Yes. You can use the Edge web browser to access Facebook, YouTube, and cloud storage such as DropBox, OneDrive, Google Drive.

To learn more about presenting evidence stored in the cloud

7. Can personal laptops, tablets or smartphones be used during the presentation?

Yes. To take advantage of the touch screen interface and for simplicity, it is recommended to present your contents from a Flash Drive or a CD/DVD disc, as described earlier. As long as your device has an HDMI port, or a video port that is HDMI-compatible, you will be able to project your device's display to the large touch screen, regardless of manufacturer or operating system in use. The court keeps a small stock of common video cables and adapters. You may request a loaner cable, although availability is not guaranteed. It is strongly recommended that you verify your device's compatibility and bring your own HDMI adapter cable.

To learn more about connecting your own devices for evidence presentation

8. Is a document camera available for use in the courtroom?

Yes, an Epson High Definition document camera is provided on the podium. You may capture and display any page as large as 11"X17", as well as any physical objects using this document camera. You can easily zoom-in or zoom-out of the viewing area. The captured images from the touch screen can be annotated on screen, thus enhancing the effectiveness of your presentation.

To learn more about using document camera

9. Can a flipchart or a whiteboard be used during the presentation?

Yes...and no. You don't need to bring in or borrow a flipchart or a whiteboard to illustrate your points. You may use the touch screen as a smartboard, which allows you to easily write or draw anything using the provided stylus. You can also import images into the whiteboard application on the touchscreen and make annotations. The whiteboard feature is excellent tool for evidence presentation, especially for jury summations.

To learn more about using whiteboarding

10. What are the videoconferencing capabilities in the courtroom?

Skype videoconferencing is a built-in feature of the mobile evidence presentation system. It is integrated within the courtroom audio system. The pan tilt zoom or PTZ camera gives you the flexibility to capture the desirable viewing area for the conference. Typical usage includes, but is not limited to, remote witness testimony and court appearances of inmates. It is standard procedure to always obtain permission from the judge for video appearance from a remote location.

To learn more about videoconferencing

11. What assistance can you provide to the hearing impaired?

Assistive Listening Devices will be provided upon request. Please contact the courtroom clerk if you have difficulty hearing the court proceedings.

To learn more about Assistive Listening Device