



## Case Study: Hamilton County Courts

### The Challenge - Conduct court arraignments virtually to reduce inmate risks

The Hamilton County Court system is an early technology adopter. Not afraid of introducing new techniques and technologies Hamilton County introduced their first Video Conferencing system to the court system back in 1997 as an assessment for the then, Administrator of Courts who was doing a doctoral thesis on Video Communications in court systems. The Video Conferencing Market was so new at that time, that many people didn't think it was even possible. Not realizing they were pioneers of the time, their first Video Conferencing solution was deployed and the court system quickly realized the benefits of arrangements via Video Conferencing and has had a system in place ever since.

Over time, the technology has improved, and the needs of the court system have changed. In order to keep up with the expanding needs of the court system, Hamilton County approached IDSolutions for a new and updated solution.

### The Solution - A LifeSize HD Video Conferencing System by IDSolutions

The Hamilton County Court system uses their Video Conferencing solution daily to conduct courtroom arraignments. Defendants in one location, often in prison, call into the courtroom for their arraignments. There is a dedicated Video Conferencing room in the prison designed specifically for this purpose – prisoners are brought to this room to attend their arraignments which would otherwise be across town.



Because the Hamilton County Court system was already very familiar with the Video Conferencing technology; finding a solution that would fit their needs wasn't difficult. "We were looking for a state of the art system, one that would replace our old system with updated functions and be easy to use," said Cathy Hightower, Executive Secretary, for Hamilton County.

IDSolutions proposed a high definition video conferencing solution by LifeSize. LifeSize is the state standard in Indiana, and after Cathy did some research on LifeSize she concluded that it would be a great fit for the needs of the Court system, "We found that it (LifeSize) was really a top of the line solution and that is exactly what we were looking for".

IDSolutions implemented the new LifeSize solution and provided training for courtroom personnel. Making calls on their own – without having to get IT involved was important because the system is used daily. The new LifeSize system is also connected to the existing audio archival system in the courtroom. Any court proceeding must have the audio archived, so the courts use an audio recording system to capture the audio from microphones.



IT'S ONLY TECHNOLOGY UNTIL IT BECOMES A **SOLUTION**.

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In order to seamlessly integrate the video system without changing the work flow of the courtroom, the LifeSize video conferencing solution has been integrated with the existing audio recording system. During a video arraignment session, the audio in the court and the audio from the jail is recorded to the same file using the existing audio system. This allows for the same work flow whether the proceeding is in person or over video.

### The Result – Reduced flight risk, increased security and annual fiscal savings

As an early adopter - Hamilton County realized the benefits of using Video Conferencing for their daily arraignments long ago. Prisoners no longer have to be transported from prison to the courtroom so flight risk is greatly reduced. Security for the community and courtroom personnel is increased and the county realizes a financial benefit from not having to transport prisoner back and forth for their courtroom appearances.

The system can also be used across counties or even the country for defendants who are having hearings in other areas.

The feedback from Judges and other courtroom personnel has been very positive. "Everyone is pleased with the solution, the high definition is great and it is easy to use," said Cathy.



### About IDSolutions

IDSolutions offers a full array of products and services to meet your video needs. We work with our customers to find the best solution to fit the desired application and maximize the overall benefits of video to both public and private organizations.

IDSolutions provides planning, technical assistance and support throughout the entire project. Distance Learning, Telepresence, Video Conferencing, Interactive Visual Communications, Content Management and Web Streaming are all samples of applications that IDSolutions can successfully implement in organizations of all sizes.

Call us today to learn how to achieve your goals with video!