

Lead Agency: District Attorney
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program

Program Contact: Adam Brown

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

This one-time program offer would provide funding to equip all attorneys in the office with tablet computers. The tablets would enable the attorneys to be more efficient and effective in carrying out their duties in courtroom, and on the go. Tablets would also be a big step forward in the District Attorney's ongoing effort to modernize its traditionally paper-centric legal environment through the use of electronic resources.

Program Description

This program furnishes all attorneys with a tablet and keyboard for use in courtrooms, a necessary step to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and keep pace with technology available to the courts and defense counsel. Tablets would give attorneys access to the office network to review case-related documents, notes made by other attorneys, the DA case tracking system (CRIMES), and the DA document management system (DMS) while in court. Additionally, internet access in the courtroom would allow for quick legal research through LexisNexis and other web-based outlets, an option often available to judges and defense counsel.

Attorneys would also be able to communicate more easily with staff and colleagues from within the courtroom. For example, if additional information is needed about a witness or a file is required in a courtroom, the attorney could instantly communicate with a number of people to gather the needed information. The increased connectivity would enhance the efficiency of attorneys in the courtroom, saving time for judges and other parties. Given the widespread availability of such technological resources, the courts are moving away from the traditional environment in which parties are granted "recess" to address legal issues. Equipping attorneys with tablets is a necessary step to ensuring case outcomes are not negatively impacted by a lack of access to technology.

Additional examples of efficiencies gained through the use of tablets:

- Attorneys who work at satellite offices would be able to travel to their various assignments without having to take multiple burdensome files. It would reduce the amount of files being sent in the mail, and increase the ability of those attorneys to get work done on all matters when they are at any part of the office.
- Misdemeanor files tend to pass through many hands, because of the volume of the work. If the attorneys had tablets, the need to physically possess the file would be reduced. Misdemeanor lawyers also need to communicate quickly when morning trial matters are being re-assigned, and the ability to do so online would increase the rate at which the re-assignments take place.
- Witnesses and victims in criminal cases frequently contact the District Attorney's office to ask questions, relay pertinent information and assert their victims' rights. Depending on the reason for their contact they may speak with an attorney, a subpoena clerk, a victim's advocate or other staff member who will then make an electronic note in CRIMES about the nature of the contact. Tablets will enable attorneys in the courtroom to have instant access to all electronic CRIMES notes, most of which may not be updated in the physical file.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output		0	0	0	0
Outcome		0	0	0	0

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2013	2013	2014	2014
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$105,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues**Significant Program Changes**

Last year this program was: