



PRESS RELEASE

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Administrative Office of Courts
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Circuit Clerk's Office Increases Efficiency

Montgomery, AL – With the assistance of the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) in Montgomery, the Walker County Circuit Clerk's office has moved to a paperless office in their civil court divisions using AlaFile and Alacourt – Alabama's electronic filing system. Officials with the AOC confirm that Walker County is among the first counties in the state to maintain all of the civil court files in electronic format. AlaFile, started in 2006 as a pilot program in a few select counties, allows lawyers to submit court documents to the clerk's offices in electronic format as an alternative to filing in paper. Since that time, AlaFile has been expanded and is now available in all 67 counties.

The Walker County Circuit Clerk's office has excelled in scanning all of the "paper-filed" documents. According to Circuit Clerk Susan Odom, every civil and criminal case is scanned into the electronic system, which then allows judges in all courtrooms to view documents and access cases filed via their computer. Odom's office reports that over 12,000 documents have been filed electronically since the system was implemented and that over 1.5 million pages of documents have been scanned into the application. The public can also obtain access to public court files electronically. By enabling access to these electronic files for court personnel and the public, significant gains in accessibility and efficiency have been realized.

The goal of AlaFile and Alacourt is to provide electronic filing and storage of documents in the court system while improving the efficiency and accessibility of the courts. Due to the hard work of court personnel and elected officials like Circuit Clerk Susan Odom, the applications continue to grow, as evidenced by the fact that nearly 8,200 attorneys have already registered for AlaFile. AOC, with the assistance and input of court personnel and judges, will continue to work to improve the capacity of these electronic filing applications to provide a better service to the citizens of Alabama. "We are certainly proud of the leadership and dedication to service demonstrated by Suzie and the members of her staff. The Walker County Clerk's Office and court officials are to be commended for their vision and willingness to implement technology in their work," stated Callie T. Dietz, Administrative Director of Courts.