



3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Launches E-Filing Pilot Program

LAKE CHARLES, LA. The Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit, is launching an E-Filing Pilot Program effective May 10, 2021. The pilot program will allow registered attorneys to file electronically writ applications, briefs, and other pleadings on all new and existing cases. If the E-Filing Pilot Program proves successful, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal will consider permanently utilizing E-Filing.

Electronic records management was first launched by the federal courts in 1988. Florida and Texas state courts were among the first states to create online filing systems to give attorneys and the public greater access to legal documents. Massachusetts state courts also are launching an e-filing pilot program this summer. Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court have already instituted E-Filing for its cases. Louisiana's 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal expects electronic filings will lessen the court staff's workload and reduce the waiting time to process court filings. Digital storage is also expected to substantially reduce the cost of records storage for the court, attorneys, and the public.

Chief Judge Sylvia R. Cooks welcomed the digital technology saying, "Given the challenges faced by the 3rd Circuit during the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as the devastation caused by two back-to-back hurricanes in 2020, E-Filing will make our court more user-friendly and easily accessible to the public regardless of limited physical access to the building."

The E-Filing Pilot Program registration guidelines, registration, and an online tutorial are available on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal website at www.la3circuit.org. The Clerk of Court's office is also available to respond to questions by telephone at (337) 433-9403.