



**CITY OF MILWAUKEE
MUNICIPAL COURT**

Derek C. Mosley, Presiding Judge
Branch 2

Valarie A. Hill, Judge
Branch 1

Phillip M. Chavez, Judge
Branch 3

Kristine M. Hinrichs
Chief Court Administrator

Sheldyn M. Himle
Assistant Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2011

Kristine Hinrichs
(414) 286-3836

Municipal Court Garner's Public Policy Forum Award for Use of Technology

Award marks third such Public Policy Forum excellence award for Court since 2003

The Municipal Court has been chosen as the winner of the *Effective Use of Technology* category award in the Public Policy Forum's 2011 Salute to Local Government awards program.

The Court was selected for its electronic case file and website upgrade projects. The awards were announced this week and will be presented during a special event at the Italian Community Center on June 23, 2011.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Public Policy Forum. Both projects are allowing the Court to provide better service to our citizens at a lower cost," said Derek Mosley, Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court.

Kristine Hinrichs, chief court administrator of Municipal Court, helped oversee the transition to the all-electronic court case management system. She too, said the award is a high honor. "This has been a transformational project allowing the Court to work more efficiently and to improve the public's access to Court information, and receiving recognition from the Public Policy Forum for making technology work better for the public is truly an honor," she said.

-More-

PPF Award/ADD ONE

The move to the paperless case management system will result in substantial long-term savings as the Court no longer purchases paper files (an immediate savings of almost \$50,000 annually) and labels. Under the new paperless system, all defendant correspondence and other case-related documents are scanned and indexed to the appropriate case. All documents that Municipal Court judges require for their review are now immediately accessible to them in court or at any time or location – via an Internet connection.

In addition, the Court is also saving on staff time that was required previously to manually prepare case files, and additional staff savings will be achieved as the Milwaukee Police Department completes full implementation of its “TraCs” – or electronic citation issuing system – project, Hinrichs has said.

Earlier this year the Court rolled out a new website optimized for mobile device use and with enhanced search functionality.

Hinrichs has said the original website allowed the public to search for cases, as well as provided court information, and contained a link to an external payment site. The new site enables the public to search for Municipal Court case filings using an address range. Also, the “payment” portion of the site will be integrated with the search function to allow for a seamless process for people who want to pay their judgments on-line.

The mobile device use optimization made the Court’s website the first city website designed in this manner. The mobile optimization means that the public can search case data from a mobile phone or iPad, get information about court hours and procedures, and make payments directly from any one of these devices.

The court’s website address is www.municourt.milwaukee.gov.

With regard to the Salute to Local Government awards, the Public Policy Forum’s website states: “The Public Policy Forum believes that local governments deserve recognition for their achievements. Constituents can be frustrated, the media critical, and the public at large bewildered or indifferent. Yet there are many examples of strong government performance throughout our region, and of local government workers who excel. This event is held to highlight these examples.”