



## **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**

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**Kristine Hinrichs**  
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## **Municipal Court Goes “Live” with All-Electronic Court Case Management System**

At Milwaukee’s Municipal Court, the paper chase has officially ended.

As of this month, all Municipal Court cases will be maintained in electronic form, and the Court will no longer create any paper case files.

“We are not aware of any circuit or municipal court in Wisconsin that is all-electronic,” said Derek Mosley, Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court.

Kristine Hinrichs, the chief administrator of Municipal Court, has helped oversee the transition to the all-electronic court case management system. She said that on January 13, court staff prepped the last paper case file – the last case filed in 2010. She said the case is scheduled for court today – Thursday, January 20, 2011.

“This represents the 4,072,288<sup>th</sup> paper file used by the court since our founding in 1975,” she said.

The court’s move to paperless will result in substantial long-term savings as the court will no longer purchase paper files (an immediate savings of almost \$50,000 annually) and labels, Hinrichs said. The court will also save on staff time that was required to manually prepare case files for court, and additional staff savings will be achieved as the Milwaukee Police Department completes full implementation of its “TraCs” – or electronic citation issuing system – project, she said.

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## **Muni Court Goes Paperless/ADD ONE**

MPD citations issued via TraCs in electronic form are transmitted to the court electronically. Now, all traffic citations are issued via TraCs, and about 40% of non-traffic citations are issued via TraCs. “We anticipate that that figure will eventually increase to 60% by the end of 2011,” Hinrichs said.

Under the new paperless system, all defendant correspondence and other case-related documents are scanned and indexed to the appropriate case. Hinrichs said 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.

“This allows our judges to hold regular court sessions anywhere, something that could become necessary in the event of a large-scale facility disruption or a natural or man-made disaster,” Hinrichs said.

### **New Website**

The Municipal Court – one of the first city departments to have a website (1998) – is rolling out a new website that has been optimized for mobile device use and also boasts enhanced search functionality.

Hinrichs 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. “This feature allows the public to have a better sense as to what is going on in their neighborhood,” she said, noting 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.

Most significantly, Hinrichs said the site will be optimized for mobile device use, making it the first city website designed in this manner. The mobile optimization means that the public will be able to 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](http://www.municourt.milwaukee.gov).