
MEMORANDUM

To: CBA Criminal Law Committee file
From: Shawn R. Dominy
Date: February 1, 2006
Re: **Minutes from meeting**

Judge John Bessey discussed two issues: (1) technology and the Franklin County Common Pleas Court; and (2) the future of the Franklin County Common Pleas courthouse.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE COURT

- The catalyst for technological advancements in the Court has come from law firms representing clients in civil cases, not criminal cases. As a result, the technological advancements have occurred in the Civil Division first.
- A new case management system with technological advancements should be in place by 2007.
- The technological advances will include electronic filing and an internet-based case management system that can be accessed on the world wide web, as well as electronic filing for payment of court-appointed counsel fees.

THE FUTURE OF THE COURTHOUSE

- The process for planning and building a new courthouse began in 2001
- The County acquired land north of Mound Street at a cost of \$11 million
- The projected cost of the building is \$100 million
- The new courthouse will include space for courtrooms and offices for clerks, prosecutors, public defenders, and probation
- The new courthouse will not include space for the Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch
- The new courthouse will not include space for the Municipal Court, but a second building for the Municipal Court may be built later
- The County also plans significant changes to the I-70 and I-71 interchange area