

Trial Technology 101

The field of trial technology is the sum total of multiple moving parts. From transcript management to video switches used in court, there are a variety of technologies which are employed in order for “the show to go on.” A requisite understanding of these technologies, principles and mechanics will assist a litigator in creating the most effective environment in which to operate. Five critical components include:

Trial presentation software

Specialized software that can present documents, images, graphics, photos, illustrations, animation, transcripts, video depositions and animation.

Deposition designation clips

Video clips & portions of video deposition testimony that has been pre-recorded. Portions of the testimony, designated by both the plaintiff(s) & defendant(s), can be presented in-court for the Judge or Jury.

Document camera (often referred to as “the ELMO”)

A camera mounted device for displaying the contents underneath it through the courtroom A/V system. A document camera should be requested for every trial - one never knows when a document not present in the database may be needed for in-court presentation.

Video switch & splitter

A switch enables the trial presentation operator or attorney to change feeds (i.e. to switch from a laptop connection to opposing counsel’s or the document camera). A splitter divides an input across a select number of outputs (i.e. a VGA connection from a laptop split to 5 LCD monitors and a digital projector). Both components are requisite for presentation in a multiple monitor environment.

Digital projector

A display device for connected content, such as receiving a feed from a computer. Two critical components of digital projector selection include the resolution and lumens. A higher number of lumens indicates the ability for a brighter image, and the resolution is a measure of image quality. Avoid resolutions below 1024x768 and take note of whether or not the projector is a “widescreen” 16:9 (letterbox) or a standard 4:3 (square). The type of feed from the laptop will depend on which resolution will best accommodate the circumstance.

