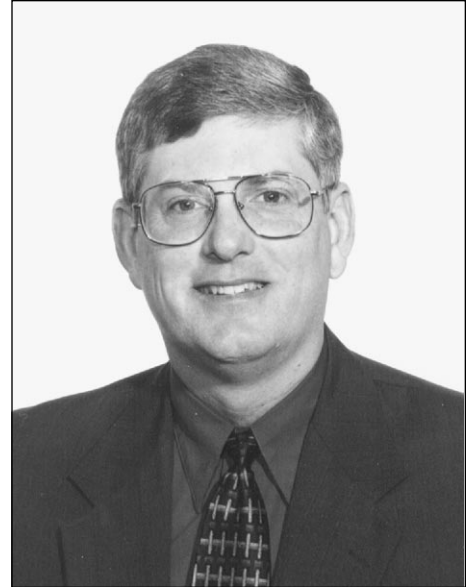


Video Transcripts

by **Kevin M. Oeffner**
Circuit Court Administrator



The Circuit Court recently revised its method for handling video transcript requests. The purpose of the change is to enable the Court Administrator's Office to more closely monitor the time taken by the transcription agencies that service our video courtrooms.

It is common for lawyers and parties on a case to request video transcripts directly from the transcription agency that services the applicable courtroom. This direct interaction may leave the court unaware of problems that arise in the production of transcripts, such as the failure to produce transcripts in accordance with the time requirements set forth in the Michigan Court Rules.

The Court Administrator's Office must now be advised of all requests for video transcripts. We will closely monitor the time it takes to produce transcripts, send the original copy of the applicable court file, and solicit feedback from requesting parties as to the accuracy and thoroughness of transcripts. This information will be helpful as we decide whether to renew contracts with transcription agencies.

Here's what you should know if you want to request video transcripts. You or your client, depending upon who's making the request, will need to complete a form entitled "Request for Transcript from Video or Copy of Videotape." Blank forms are available in the Court Administrator's Office, each "video" chambers, and online at the Circuit Court's Web site (www.oaklandcourts.org).

Please thoroughly complete the form and either mail, fax, or deliver it to the Court Administrator's Office. The pertinent information is as follows:

The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court
Court Administrator's Office
ATTN: Video Clerk
1200 N. Telegraph Road, Dept. 404
Pontiac, MI 48341-0404
FAX: 248-858-1516

The video clerk will log the information that we need and then fax the request to the appropriate transcription agency. The applicable videotape will be promptly provided to the transcription agency so that they may begin preparation of the transcript. The clock will begin ticking at that time. Once completed, the requesting party will receive a copy of the transcript from the transcription agency. The agency will send the original copy to my office

where we will forward it to the County Clerk's Office for placement in the court file. The videotape will be returned to the Court Administrator's Office for storage.

Our transcription agencies have been advised of the changes mentioned above. If you send a request for video transcripts directly to the transcription agency, you will be advised to re-send it to the Court Administrator's Office. The transcription agencies will be responsible for contacting the requesting parties directly regarding payment issues. Please be advised that any transcript costs you pass along to the court, as in the case of transcripts prepared on behalf of an indigent defendant, will be paid at the statutory rate of \$1.75 per page for the original copy and \$0.30 per page for the copy. The court does not pay higher rates for expedited transcripts.

For your information, the following courtrooms utilize videotape to make a record of court proceedings:

Courtroom 1A	1 st Floor	Judge Rae Lee Chabot
Courtroom 1D	1 st Floor	Judge Linda S. Hallmark
Courtroom 2B	2 nd Floor	Judge Edward Sosnick
Courtroom 2C	2 nd Floor	Visiting Judge ¹
Courtroom 2E	2 nd Floor	Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti
Courtroom 2H	2 nd Floor	Judge Joan E. Young
Courtroom 4B	4 th Floor	Judge James M. Alexander
Courtroom 4C	4 th Floor	Judge Colleen A. O'Brien
Courtroom 5A	5 th Floor	Judge Wendy L. Potts
Courtroom 5B	5 th Floor	Judge Alice L. Gilbert
Courtroom 5C	5 th Floor	Judge Rudy J. Nichols

All requests for transcripts arising out of events in the courtrooms referenced above will be subject to the procedures mentioned in this article. You are welcome to contact my office if you have any questions regarding video transcript requests.

Until next month...

Footnote

¹ A visiting judge will occupy courtroom 2C for the remainder of 2002. Courtroom 2C will house one of the two new circuit judges who will be elected this November and take office on January 1, 2003.