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PRESS RELEASE

The Seventh District Court of Appeals recently received a technology grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The nearly \$8,000 in grant funding will go toward upgrading remote technology for oral arguments. The new technology will improve the clarity of both audio and visual qualities during oral argument sessions.

“The Seventh District Court of Appeals serves eight counties in the district. Some of those counties are located more than two hours away from the Courthouse,” said Presiding and Administrative Judge Gene Donofrio. “This technology will insure that we can continue to bridge that gap so that litigants can see and hear the proceeding clearly, whether near or far.”

Technology funding to local courts across the state has been a priority of Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor since 2015. In 2022, the Supreme Court of Ohio awarded more than \$3 million in technology grant funds for projects by 48 courts in 36 counties.

“Technology, with all its fast-developing capabilities, can never replace the fair and impartial minds in the legal system,” said Chief Justice O’Connor. “But it can provide the capacity to improve the operation of the courts, thereby improving service to the public.”

The Seventh District Court of Appeals recently returned to conducting oral arguments in-person following a period of remote proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Court continues to stream live-coverage of all oral arguments on its website.

These technological improvements are the epitome of an accessible justice system. “The Court has learned to adapt and improve on these new technologies in order to continue to provide access to justice in the most meaningful way,” said Judge Donofrio.