



OVERVIEW

Over 10 years ago, the Supreme Court of Florida began the process of switching to electronic filing for its court systems. While it took some time to find and fully implement eUnivera throughout the 67 counties in Florida, it's been a welcome change that has saved the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers, taxpayers, and those who utilize the system, millions of dollars.

POPULATION

20.61 MILLION

SOLUTIONS

EUNIVERA
(Active since 2010)

FLORIDA COURT CLERKS & COMPTROLLERS PRIORITIZES E-FILING, SAVES MILLIONS

SITUATION

Paper Causes Backups in Florida's Court System

In the early 2000s, the court system for the state of Florida relied exclusively on paper processes for filing. However, this process was costly for the counties, attorneys and citizens who represent themselves in court cases. Since files were paper-based, only one person or party could use each file at a time. "If you wanted to look at a file, you had to wait until the judge was done with it," says Tim Smith, Clerk of Courts for Putnam County, FL. The Florida Association of County Clerks (FACC) was also required by law to keep past filings, which it had to do in a hurricane-safe warehouse.

When it came time for lawyers to file court documents, they would have to do so in person, which also meant they could only file between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. If someone chose to file by mail, or lived too far from a courthouse to file in person, they would have to pay to send their documents. As these packets could be up to 50 pages, this often added up to large postage costs for lawyers and other filers.

As the reasons for shifting this process to the digital world became too numerous and too compelling to ignore, the state of Florida began making preparations to get all of its 67 counties on the same page.



METRICS

\$16M

SAVED IN POSTAGE
COSTS

1.3M

E-FILING
SUBMISSIONS
RECEIVED PER MONTH

160K

PORTAL USERS
MANAGED

SOLUTION

Courts, Clerks, and Lawyers Speed Up Processes

Once the Florida Supreme Court decided to make a change to e-filing roughly 10 years ago, they put together a committee to address some of the questions that lingered. It was necessary to have a single system, the committee decided, and one that was easy for all counties to adopt.

“It would be easier to manage, easier to maintain [if everyone used the same system],” says Melvin Cox, Director of IT for Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers. Before this could happen, however, the state had to find a system that would layer over and interface with the 67 different case management systems utilized by each of the 67 counties.

They eventually discovered that Granicus’ [eUniversa](#) solution could accomplish this large undertaking. While it took nearly two years to fully implement due the sheer number of counties where it would be used, the solution began to prove its own value immediately. Once the system was available in all counties, its use was mandated by the Florida Supreme Court for all court participants beginning on April 1, 2013.

The result of this change is that court documents are easy to file, which creates more efficiency for everyone from litigants to attorneys to the courts themselves. Filers can now send documents from anywhere they have an internet connection, at any time of day or night.

The system also has another welcome benefit: “It’s a huge savings to the taxpayers,” says Carolyn Weber, Portal Program Manager for Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers.

While the state and those in charge of the system continue to make adjustments that allow the eUniversa portal to move beyond its original planned use, it continues to make the filing process within the courts easier to manage.

RESULTS

A More Efficient Court System

Now that Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers allows filers to submit documents electronically using eUniversa, it saves the state of Florida a tremendous amount of time, money, and space. Their court system runs much more efficiently and smoothly, to the benefit of all involved.

ABOUT GRANICUS

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