

## Appendix

The Government Printing Office (GPO) currently hosts the Supreme Court's Website and has done so since 2000. At the time, the Court chose GPO to host the site, rather than taking on the project in-house, to rely on GPO's expertise in providing web services and in ensuring the security of the system.

Use of the Court's Website continues to expand. In January 2009, there were 18,765,000 successful "hits" to the site. This is a 100% increase over January 2008. Over the years, as Internet technology has evolved, the public has increasingly sought more web-based information about the Court in a more timely fashion. The Court has determined that it can best meet those requests by moving its Website in-house and integrating it more closely with its other activities. That transfer will enable the Court to better control and manage the Website and to be able to expand the data and services provided by the site more efficiently.

In recent years, the Court has improved its capability for operating an in-house Website. In 2002, the Court deployed an Internet network for web browsing, and in 2004 the Court expanded and upgraded the infrastructure and capacities for web services and Internet-based email. More recently, the Court has implemented secure connectivity between its Internet network and the lower courts, the Federal Reserve, Lexis and Westlaw, and other agencies. The Court has developed considerable technological expertise in implementing those initiatives. The infrastructure deployed for these initiatives (hardware, software, network and electronics) now provides 45% of the infrastructure needed to host a Website supported by Court staff.

The benefits of an in-house Website have become especially clear in the past year. The Supreme Court has sought to make its orders and opinions promptly available to the public by posting them on the current, GPO-hosted Website. To facilitate GPO's posting of the information, the Court technology team implemented new processes in the fall of 2008 and now creates, edits, and sends finished Website content to GPO for prompt posting. As a result of those efforts, the Court's opinions and orders now typically appear on the GPO-hosted site within five minutes of the Court's announcement in the courtroom.

The Court's experience with Website posting reveals that the Court is capable of maintaining its own Website. Further, because of familiarity with the data, Court staff is able to post the data more timely and more accurately than could ever be expected of the GPO staff. If the Court assumed the responsibility for all data content, the Court could expedite posting even more, reduce the possibility of inadvertent transmittal errors, and eliminate the inefficiencies inherent in transmitting files to GPO that the Court could post itself. For example, rather than transmitting the Court's docket updates to the GPO for posting three times a day, the Court could make the docket updates available as soon as the Court's database is updated. This would allow much more timely information available to the legal community on docketed cases.

The Court's current Website at GPO is nine years old. The system is outdated and must be upgraded to more current technology (both hardware and software) regardless of whether it remains at GPO or is brought into the Court.

The Court can move its Website in-house through a relatively small expenditure of funds. This initiative would require \$303,000 for purchasing additional hardware, software, network components, and electronics to support the Court's Website. It would also require \$418,000 to fund four new full-time information technology specialist positions: one new information technology (IT) specialist who will be the first point of contact for all technical and user issues; a security analyst/auditor who will monitor Website activity, analyze and respond to incidents and implement security enhancements; a software developer who will develop, support, and administer the Website's software applications, and a network administrator who will support the Website network and server environment. The Court would also need \$78,000 to hire a composition specialist to prepare and post data on the Website.

The Court has been conservative and cost-conscious in working toward developing the capacity to operate an in-house Website. The costs of the requested program increases will be offset by reducing expenditures at GPO and eliminating the staff time spent coordinating work between GPO and Court personnel. It is also offset by the anticipated cost for redevelopment of the Court's Website if it should remain at the GPO.

The Court will continue to work with the GPO on initiatives such as permanent document storage and archiving that are more central to that agency's mission.