



Corrections to the ECR

As you begin working more with the electronic court record (ECR), you will notice that some electronically filed or scanned documents have been corrected or modified by the Clerk's Office. The circumstances when the Clerk's Office will correct a document are extremely limited, and the appearance of the document will reflect at a glance that a change has been made.

Due to large caseloads, attorneys periodically file a document with the Clerk that lists an incorrect case number. In this situation the Clerk's Office will electronically strike through the incorrect case number, insert the correct case number, and electronically attach a text box stating, "Corrected by Clerk of the Court." The Clerk's Office has struck through incorrect case numbers and handwritten the correct case number on paper filings for many years.

The other occurrence when the Clerk's Office will change a filed document is by order of the court. If the court orders the Clerk to add, remove, or modify information on a document, the Clerk will comply, and a text box will appear on the document indicating that a change was made by the Clerk pursuant to court order. Again, this process has occurred in the paper world for many years. Knowing these situations will continue to occur on eFilings and scanned documents will help you recognize these changes if you encounter one in your practice.

Electronic Success

The distribution of paper minute entries in March 2007 decreased by over 50 percent from the number of paper minute entries distributed in March 2006. This decrease is attributed to the continued enrollment of local attorneys in the electronic distribution of minute entries program. The elimination of paper copies for the County Attorney's Victim Services unit in March of 2007 contributed to the reduction of paper as well. Hundreds of Superior Court and Clerk's Office departments receive their minute entries electronically and over 5,000 attorneys are currently enrolled in electronic distribution of minute entries.

Electronic minute entries reduce the amount of paper that must be used and stored, and allows a faster method for litigants to receive information from the court. Over 60 percent of minute entries are created the same day as the hearing, and over 90 percent of minute entries are created within two days of the hearing. To receive minute entries electronically, a law firm must complete and return the minute entry distribution agreement form on the Clerk's website at <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/forms.asp>

eFiling Rising

While electronic filing in the Superior Court in Maricopa County remains in a pilot project status, eFilings have seen tremendous growth in one year's time. In March 2006, there were 835 eFilings in criminal and general civil cases. In March 2007, there were 8,347 total eFilings. These are filings on the Clerk-maintained eFiling system, and do not include eFilings in complex civil litigation cases filed through third-party vendor, Lexis-Nexis.

Increased participation by civil and criminal divisions and a steady surge of use by county agencies contributed to the rapid rise in volume of eFilings. While anything new can present challenges, the Clerk's Office has consistently heard that once an individual starts filing electronically, they rapidly come to favor eFiling over the traditional paper process. The exponential growth of eFiling in one year's time bears evidence of that.

It is important to note that eFiling is not yet available in all case types or divisions. For more information on participating civil and criminal divisions, and requirements for participation in the pilot, visit the Clerk's website at <https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/help/edivisions.asp>