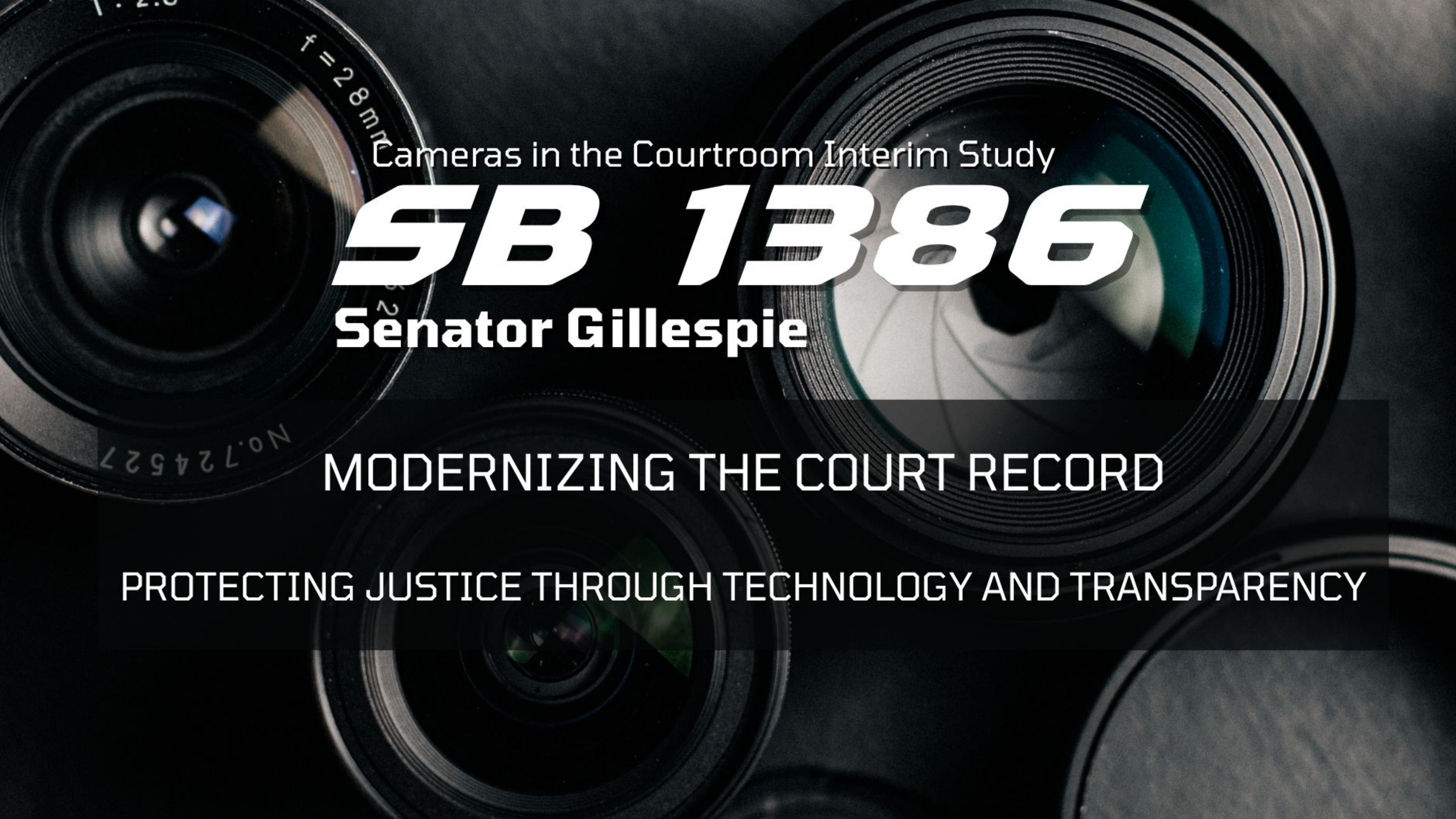


The background of the entire image is a close-up, artistic shot of several camera lenses. The lenses are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and focus. Some lenses are in sharp focus, showing the intricate details of the lens elements and the aperture blades. Others are blurred, creating a bokeh effect. The lighting is dramatic, with highlights on the lens surfaces and deep shadows in the recessed areas. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of black, grey, and blue.

Cameras in the Courtroom Interim Study

SB 1386

Senator Gillespie

MODERNIZING THE COURT RECORD

PROTECTING JUSTICE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPARENCY



Modernizing the Court Record

Protecting Justice Through
Technology and Transparency

Why We're Here:

The current state of Oklahoma's
court record system

Why the Legislature is studying
this issue

What SB 1386 actually accomplishes

- Official video record
- State funding
- Uniform standards
- Secure chain of custody
- Transcripts produced only when needed
- Public confidence
- Preservation of evidence
- Better appellate review
- Reiterates existing statute that protects victims, children and vulnerable adults
- Support for court reporters rather than elimination





HB 3970 allowing proceedings without a court reporter is an important part of this discussion because it demonstrates the state has already recognized staffing challenges. That makes the question less about whether technology should be used and more about how to ensure the record

THE JUDICIARY'S PERSPECTIVE

Chief Justice Dustin Rowe





THE JUDICIARY'S PERSPECTIVE

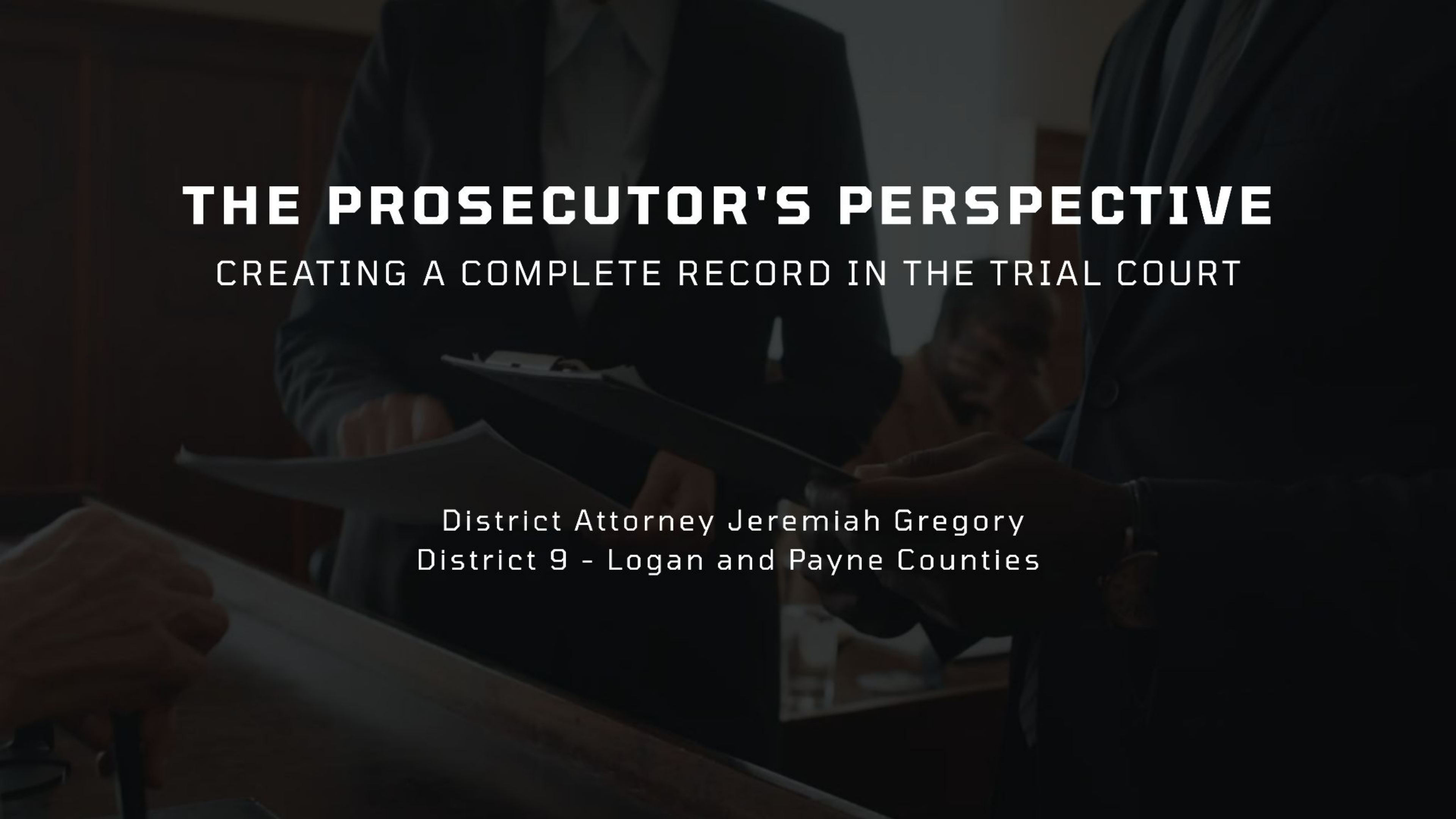
CURRENT SYSTEM, OPERATIONAL NEEDS, AND FISCAL IMPACT

Administrative Director of the Courts Diana O'Neal



THE COURT REPORTER'S PERSPECTIVE

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, WORKFORCE CHALLENGES,
AND ELECTRONIC RECORDING



THE PROSECUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

CREATING A COMPLETE RECORD IN THE TRIAL COURT

District Attorney Jeremiah Gregory
District 9 - Logan and Payne Counties

THE PROSECUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

PRESERVING THE RECORD FOR APPEALS AND POST-CONVICTION REVIEW

District Attorney Matt Ballard
District 12 - Craig, Mayes and Rogers Counties

Forty Years of Experience

Prepared by: Kevin Otey

About Justice AV Solutions

Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) is a Louisville, Kentucky-based company founded in 1981, purpose-built for one mission: giving courts an accurate, accessible audio/video record of due process. What began as a general AV integration business became a courts-only company in 1982, when founder David

Green partnered with Kentucky a pioneer who believed technology, not just people, could reliably preserve the record.

Today JAVS has **10,000+ courtroom installations in 17 countries**, a **97% customer retention rate**, and is the recognized leader in purpose-built courtroom recording technology.



Performance Optimization Evolution Timeline

Strategic transformation journey from assessment to sustainable excellence delivery

1944

Congress formally authorized U.S. District Courts to appoint official court reporters, cementing stenography as the default method of preserving the record.

For more information:
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-58/pdf/STATUTE-58-Pg5.pdf>

1965-1983

Federal courts began experimenting with tape-based audio recording as an alternative to live reporters. A Federal Judicial Center study for the Judicial Conference of the United States, examining over 800 audio cassettes and 10,000+ pages of court documents across 12 U.S. district courts, concluded that audio recording could produce an accurate record of proceedings and at a lower cost than official reporters.

For more information:
https://www.fjc.gov/content/comparative-evaluation-stenographic-and-audiotape-methods-united-states-district-court-0?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Mid-80's

A nationwide shortage of qualified stenographic court reporters left many state courts backlogged, with trials delayed and appeals stalled while they waited for reporters to become available.

For more information:
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1987-07-15-mn-2486-story.html>

1989

Kentucky became the first state in the nation to adopt audio/video recording as the sole official record of its courts, eliminating the need for court reporters statewide a distinction Kentucky still holds today.

For more information:
https://jjis.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Savings_Satisfaction_JAVS.pdf



Kentucky's Adoption, Beginning in the 1980s

In the early 1980s, Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts led by Director Don Cetrulo faced the same reporter shortage playing out nationally: trials delayed, appeals backed up, and no reliable pipeline of stenographers to fill the gap. Cetrulo turned to an unproven idea: video recording of proceedings as a substitute official record, at a time when no automatic camera technology existed that could reliably track multiple speakers around a courtroom.

For more information: <https://case.hks.harvard.edu/court-reporting-in-kentucky-a/>

Judge James S. Chenault of Madison County, Kentucky became the practice's earliest champion and pilot judge, beginning as early as 1982. Chenault's own notes preserved by Kentucky's court system captured the argument in a single line that still anchors JAVS's pitch four decades later: a recording system "would never call in sick, it would never need to take a day off, it would never go on vacation. It would simply always be there."

Chief Justice Robert F. Stephens carried that thinking to a statewide policy, and in 1989 Kentucky made A/V recording the official record of its courts not a supplement to stenography, but a replacement for it.



Why Kentucky Made the Transition

- Reporter availability, not reporter quality. The driving problem was a labor shortage — not a belief that stenographers did the job poorly.
- Consistency of the record. An electronic system doesn't get tired, doesn't fall behind during a long docket, and doesn't need a substitute mid-trial.
- Cost to the court system and to citizens. Eliminating the court-reporter function statewide removed a major recurring personnel cost from Kentucky's court budget savings now estimated at roughly \$42 million per year while also reducing the per-page transcript fees litigants themselves were paying.
- Reporters who left the courtroom didn't leave the profession. Displaced Kentucky court reporters largely moved into freelance and deposition work the transition reshaped where reporters worked, not whether the profession survived.



How Official Recording Has Evolved Over 40+ Years

The system Kentucky piloted in the 1980s looked nothing like what runs in courtrooms today. The throughline across four decades has been the same: capture the full, unedited proceeding automatically, with no operator required to "get it right" in the moment.

1980-1990

Early tape- and disc-based systems with fixed cameras; recordings were physical media (tape, later CD/DVD) handled and stored manually.

2000's

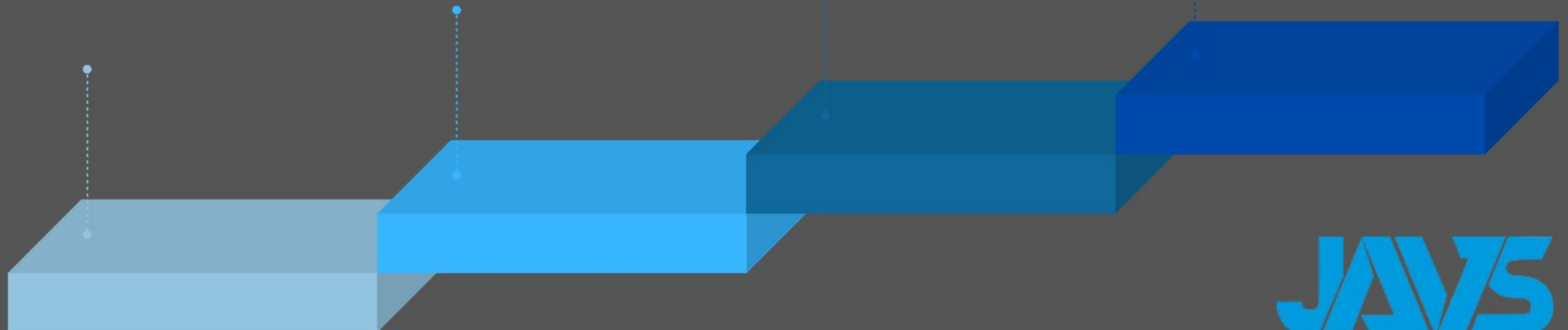
Digital, hard-disk-based recording replaces analog tape; multi-microphone audio mixing begins to replace single fixed microphones.

2010's

Automatic multi-camera video switching keyed to the active speaker; the elimination of physical media in favor of networked digital storage.

TODAY

JAVS Suite 9, a web-based, AI-enabled courtroom platform combining automatic gain-sharing audio (adjusted every 30 milliseconds), speaker-triangulating microphone awareness, real-time AI transcription and translation, and secure, tamper-evident digital chain of custody — monitored centrally with live uptime and system-health metrics.



The constant across every generation has been JAVS's founding premise: the record should be complete, automatic, and available to everyone who has a right to see it — not gated behind a single person's schedule or a single point of failure.



Scale Today: Courtrooms Running on JAVS

10,000+ total courtroom installations worldwide, across 17 countries.

1,600 systems currently under active JAVS service contracts across 25 U.S. states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Kentucky alone runs approximately 480 active JAVS systems — the largest concentration of any single JAVS customer, and the only state where JAVS is the sole recording system by law.

Beyond U.S. courts, JAVS technology also supports large government deployments internationally, including 400+ courtrooms in Malaysia and 2,200+ systems across South Africa, plus the U.S. Social Security Administration's 1,800+ hearing rooms nationwide.



Modern JAVS deployments (Suite 9) include

- live system
- health monitoring
- real-time alerts
- uptime metrics across every recorder in
a courthouse or district

Reliability

JAVS measure's reliability the way courts actually experience it:

Does the record exist when the case needs it?
Does the system keep running without a dedicated operator
watching it?

Two data points anchor that story: a **97% customer retention rate** — courts that adopt JAVS overwhelmingly stay on JAVS — and **40+ years of continuous operation** in the country's most demanding, error-intolerant recording environment: the courtroom.

— so courthouse IT and JAVS support can catch and resolve a problem before it affects court hearing, rather than discovering a gap in the record after the fact. This kind of proactive monitoring is one of the clearest lessons the industry has learned since Kentucky's early, unmonitored systems occasionally went down mid-recording with no one aware until it was too late.



Chain of Custody

A recording is only as useful as a court's ability to prove it hasn't been altered. JAVS builds chain-of-custody protection directly into the recording process rather than treating it as a separate step:

- Tamper-resistant capture of both audio and video at the point of recording, not after the fact.
- Secure metadata tagging that creates a verifiable, auditable trail for every recorded proceeding who, when, and under what case number.
- Non-proprietary file formats, so records remain accessible with standard tools years or decades later no dependency on a single vendor's software to prove authenticity.
- Speaker diarization/attribution, so the record ties statements to the correct participant automatically, reducing disputes over who said what.

This matters more, not less, as AI-generated media becomes a real courtroom risk. JAVS's tamper-evident, verifiable capture is increasingly framed including in recent recognition internationally as a direct safeguard against deepfake and synthetic-media threats to judicial evidence.



Lessons Learned

- Frame technology as a complement to the human role, not a replacement for the profession. Kentucky's transition worked in part because reporters displaced from the courtroom moved into freelance and deposition work rather than being eliminated from the profession entirely. States that frame conversion as "eliminating reporters" invite far more organized resistance than states that frame it as "solving an availability problem."
- Reliability has to be monitored, not assumed. Early electronic recording systems occasionally failed silently. A recording could stop with no one aware until the gap was discovered later. Live health monitoring (not periodic manual checks) is now table stake, not a premium feature.
- Chain of custody has to be built in from day one, not retrofitted. Courts that adopt recording technology without a clear, auditable custody trail create exactly the kind of admissibility questions the technology was supposed to eliminate.
- Funding rarely arrives as one lump sum. Kentucky's own transition, and most state conversions since, have succeeded through phased rollouts, grant programs, and multi-year budget cycles not a single appropriation. Plan the financing model before the pilot, not after.
- Non-proprietary formats protect the court, not just the vendor. A record locked inside proprietary software becomes a liability the moment that vendor relationship changes. Kentucky's decades-long relationship with JAVS has been the exception, not the rule nationally most states should not assume permanence and should insist on open, standard file formats regardless of vendor.



Mistakes Other States Should Avoid

- Treating the pilot courtroom as the finished system. What works in one pilot courtroom under ideal conditions does not automatically scale to a busy, high-volume docket — plan for load and edge cases from the start, as Kentucky itself learned in its earliest deployments.
- Skipping the "why" conversation with court reporters and their associations. States that engage reporter associations early and honestly about the availability problem driving the change far better than states that present conversion as a surprise.
- Underestimating historic courthouse constraints. Historic-designated courthouses often restrict wiring and structural changes; failing to plan for a non-standard install adds delay and cost late in a project.
- Assuming a single statewide contract fits every state. Centralized states (like Kentucky) can run one statewide conversation; decentralized states require a true county-by-county strategy applying the wrong model wastes years of relationship-building effort.
- Ignoring the CMS bundling risk. As case-management-system vendors increasingly acquire recording companies, states that don't evaluate recording and case management as separate decisions risk losing vendor independence and negotiating leverage.

The Bottom Line

Kentucky didn't adopt electronic recording because the technology was flashy it adopted it because a real, practical shortage of court reporters was already slowing down justice, and someone was willing to try a system that would simply always be there. Forty years later, that same premise a complete, automatic, verifiable record, available to everyone who has a right to see it is what every JAVS courtroom installation is still built to deliver.

Justice AV Solutions | javs.com | Louisville, Kentucky

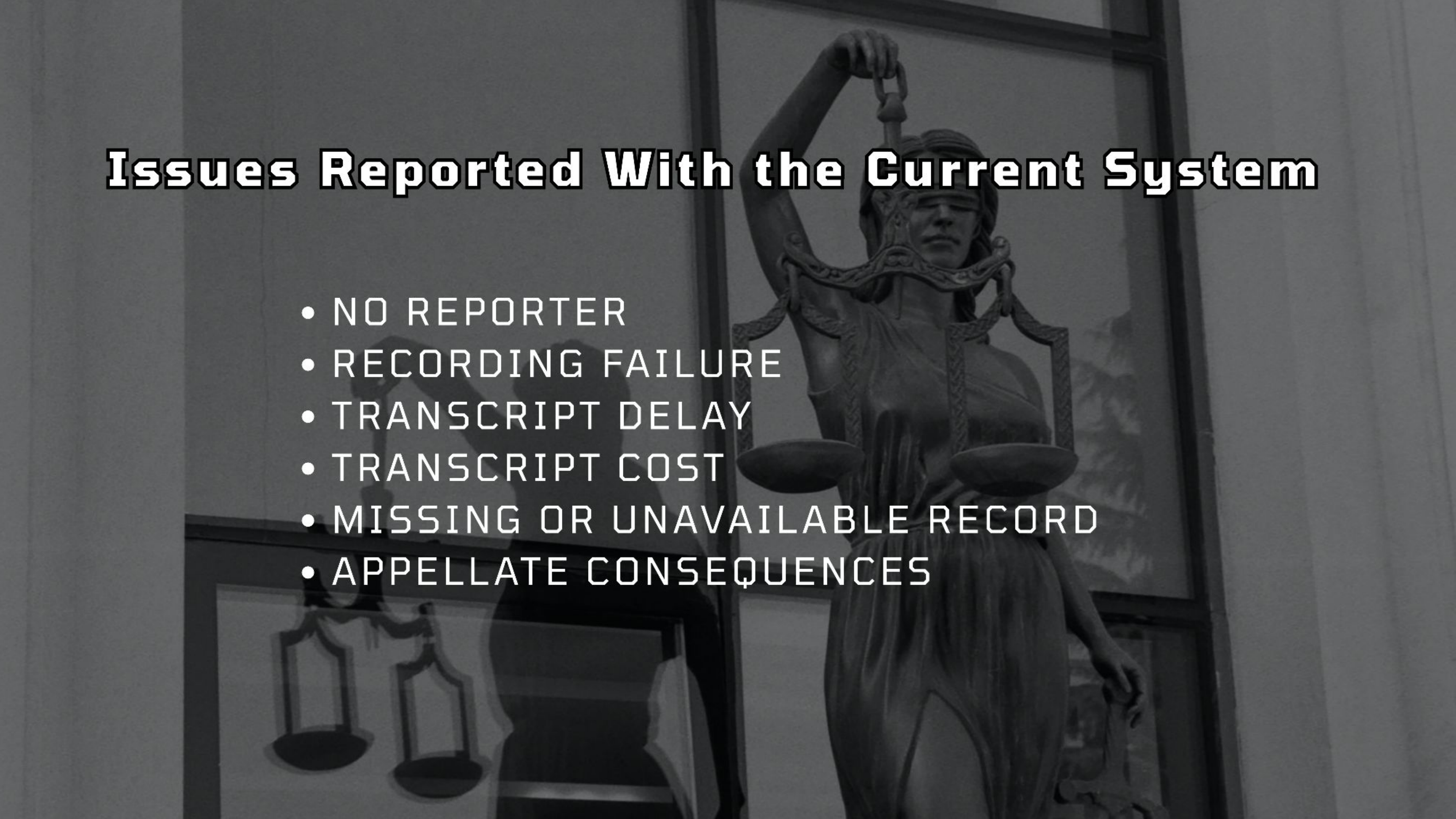


Attorney
Shar Agosto

ACCESS TO THE RECORD



Issues Reported With the Current System

A black and white photograph of a statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales of justice, standing in front of a large window. The statue is the central focus, with its right arm raised holding a sword and its left arm holding the scales. The background shows a large window with a reflection of the statue and some outdoor scenery.

- NO REPORTER
- RECORDING FAILURE
- TRANSCRIPT DELAY
- TRANSCRIPT COST
- MISSING OR UNAVAILABLE RECORD
- APPELLATE CONSEQUENCES

Presentation of Affected Individuals

Teresa Teran

Grand Jury Justice Foundation



Protecting Vulnerable People in a Recorded Courtroom

Senate Bill 1386 • Floor Substitute / Floor Amendment 1 • March 24, 2026

Colleen McCarty, Attorney

SB 1386

FS / FA1

secure record

victim safeguards

court reporter continuity

public-interest access

implementation rules

Three commitments at the center

These are not either/or choices.

**Transparency
advocates
are not asking for
victim exposure**

The argument is that secrecy can also make patterns harder to see.

**Court reporters
are not the target**

The bill prioritizes places where no reporter is available; the goal is continuity.

**Technology is
here to stay**

The choice is intentional implementation with safeguards, or falling behind.

**A meaningful system can protect victims, preserve professional roles,
and still make the record more accessible.**

Framing added for testimony; bill text supplies the pilot, priority, access, security, and protected-person structure.

Record is not publication

Creating a record and publishing a record are different decisions.



An electronic record can be accurate and complete without becoming an unrestricted digital archive.

Latest floor substitute: rules address recording, preservation, access, distribution, commercial exploitation, and official-record designation.

What the current floor substitute requires

The March 24 version supplies a broader safeguards framework.

Encryption

storage, preservation, retention, archiving

Protected people

jurors, minors, victims/witnesses, vulnerable adults

Misuse limits

harassment, intimidation, misrepresentation

Secure family-law access

encrypted web addresses that cannot be forwarded or shared

Access controls

authorized access, reproduction, distribution

Public-interest carveouts

news, research, legal education, commentary

SB 1386 FS FA1, March 24, 2026: rulemaking, confidentiality, access, distribution, and commercial-exploitation provisions.

Court reporters: continuity, not displacement

The pilot is aimed at places where reporter availability creates gaps.

Court reporters provide professional judgment

Recording can preserve a usable record when a reporter is unavailable

The bill allows priority for courtrooms without a reporter

Modernization can supplement the court-reporting profession while addressing real gaps in access to the record.

SB 1386 FS FA1 creates a pilot for transcripts where court reporters are not available and prioritizes courtrooms without a reporter.

Protected people are expressly named

The bill requires standards prohibiting photographing or recording these categories.

- Jurors + prospective jurors
- Protected minors
- Protected victims + witnesses
- Vulnerable adults
- **Any other confidential identity**

Applicable public information restriction statutes:

- **51 O.S. § 24A.30** — narrowly tailored sealing
- 10A O.S. §§ 1-6-102, 1-6-107; 2-6-102, 2-6-103** — children/juveniles
- 21 O.S. § 142A-9 & 22 O.S. § 60.14** — victims/witnesses and protected addresses
- 43A O.S. §§ 10-110, 5-415** — vulnerable adults and mental-health proceedings
- Okla. Dist. Ct. R. 32** — juror privacy
- Okla. Ct. Crim. App. R. 2.6(E)** — protected materials withheld from online access

**The category may be clear. Any bill passed must comport with existing law.
The operational question is how to protect the image, the audio, and later access.**

Transparency is not victim exposure

The public-access argument is about accountability, not putting protected people in danger.

What serious transparency advocates are NOT asking for:

Victim doxing

Entertainment from trauma

Unrestricted reposting

Loss of protective orders

What transparency can help show:

Repeated patterns

Unequal treatment

Delay or coercive practices

Procedural breakdowns

Meaningful oversight and victim safety should be designed together.

Advocacy framing added for testimony; implementation remains governed by SB 1386 safeguards and existing confidentiality law.

Audio creates privacy risk too

Turning the camera away does not solve an audio problem.

**A child
name + school**

**A victim
actual address**

**A witness
phone +
employer**

**A vulnerable adult
medical or
placement info**

**Protected facts can be spoken into the record even when
no protected face appears on camera.**

The rules need both visual redaction and audio redaction.

Examples drawn from protected categories referenced in SB 1386 FS FA1.

Access is a chain, not a switch

The floor substitute asks for rules governing authorized access, reproduction, and distribution.



A lawful viewing right does not automatically answer every later copying or redistribution question.

Public interest ≠ exploitation

The substitute makes room for public-interest use while restricting unrelated exploitation.

Protected public uses named in the bill:

Bona fide news reporting

Academic research

Legal education

Public interest commentary

Misuse concern:

Entertainment at a litigant's expense

Harassment or intimidation

Knowing misrepresentation

Unauthorized access or dissemination

The implementation task is to separate legitimate public use from exploitative or unsafe use.

Official-record nuance

The recording is part of the record — not automatically the official record.

**Part of the proceeding record
+ metadata to verify authenticity
and detect alteration**



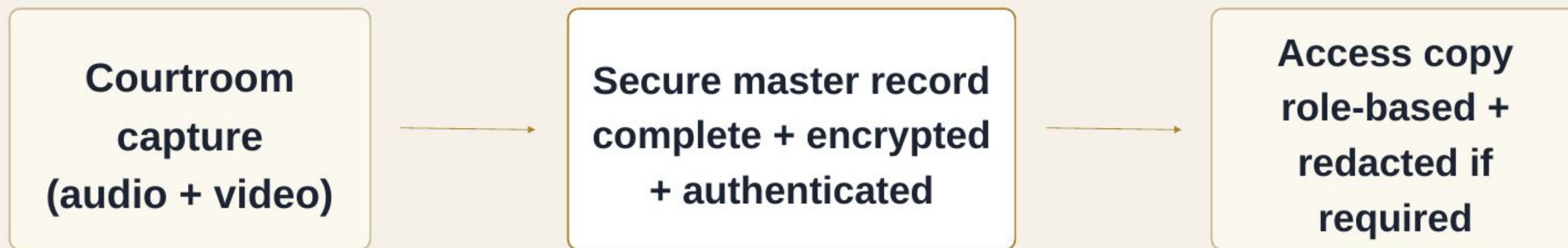
**Official record only by
presiding judge's written order
under specified conditions**

**This preserves judicial control while allowing recordings to
support transcript preparation, review, and access in
understaffed courts.**

SB 1386 FS FA1: metadata, transcript certification, and written-order official-record designation.

A practical implementation model

Preserve the whole truth; release only what the law allows.



The master remains intact. The access version reflects the user's legal right to see, hear, copy, or distribute.

Implementation concept drawn from secure preservation, access, distribution, metadata, and confidentiality provisions.

The rules should separate five functions

Each point in the lifecycle can have a different legal rule.



**A system can be transparent and controlled at the same time
if each stage is governed intentionally.**

Open court does not have to mean unrestricted digital archive.

Modernization can protect all three values:

accurate records + lawful confidentiality + meaningful oversight

The tools are here. The question is whether the safeguards are built into the system
from the start.



Demonstration

- Timestamp
- Search capability
- Audio channels
- Exhibits
- Chain of custody
- Transcript generation



Frequently Asked Questions

Brought to you by:



For The Record™



Can footage of an eviction hearing end up being circulated online in a way that publicly humiliates the one who is already going through a hardship?

All FTR audio and video is encrypted during capture, and transmission and at rest. All Court Content is hosted on AWS (Amazon Web Services) and is accessed through secure encrypted links that only approved parties may access. The encrypted link to the content cannot be forwarded or shared or accessed by non-authorized parties. All Court Content contains a Disclaimer that is customized by the Court to include any civil, criminal or rules and policies of the jurisdiction regarding Court Content that is accessed. All FTR audio and video have an Activity Log associated with the Court Content that tracks every time Court content is accessed: by whom, their IP address, their location, their account name, their internet browser, and exactly what they accessed to the second on any given day.



What safeguards in this bill to prevent courtroom footage from being selectively edited and used in political campaigns or political messaging used in political campaigns or political messaging?

All FTR audio and video is encrypted during capture, and transmission and at rest. All Court Content is hosted on AWS (Amazon Web Services) and is accessed through secure encrypted links that only approved parties may access. The encrypted link to the content cannot be forwarded or shared or accessed by non-authorized parties. All Court Content contains a Disclaimer that is customized by the Court to include any civil, criminal or rules and policies of the jurisdiction regarding Court Content that is accessed. All FTR audio and video have an Activity Log associated with the Court Content that tracks every time Court content is accessed: by whom, their IP address, their location, their account name, their internet browser, and exactly what they accessed to the second on any given day.



In parts of the bill it talks about storage, secure preservation, retention and archiving of audio and video recordings, did not see how when mentioned about sealed document, are you concerned with cyber security, risks, storage, archiving of that material and whether that would remain securely stored?

For The Record's Justice Cloud solution is hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS), which is Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) Certified at the Moderate Level. Many State and Federal Courts in the U.S. are currently utilizing the system.

All Court Content is stored in the U.S. East and West Regions of AWS.

FTR offers unlimited storage capacity for both audio and video recordings, and encrypted preservation. We have customers who have retention policies of 100 years for their Court Content stored on AWS. All sealed content can only be accessed by designated Court Staff who determine who and what access is permitted.

FTR is System and Organization Controls 2 (SOC2) Certified; FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy compliant and has achieved NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5 Certification through the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is the highest level of cybersecurity certification from the National Institute of Standards and Technology for private companies regarding security and privacy controls for Information Systems and Organizations.

For The Record's dedicated Trust Center contains all of our Cybersecurity certifications and Privacy Policies: FTR Trust Center



When talking about if the court owns the record and it's stored in the cloud, how would someone access that information?

The Court owns the record. FTR manages the encrypted capture, transmission and secure storage of the Court's content.

The Court Staff can access the Court's content 24/7 on any web-enabled device, which is fully tracked for transparency. All access to the Court's content is strictly controlled through permission-based access which is determined by the Court. Access of Court Content can be restricted to one courtroom/courthouse for any member of the Court Staff. User Groups of Court Staff are assigned access permissions depending on their role in the Court System.

Litigants and members of the public can access the Court record only after approval by the Court Operations Team who determine if the requestor may have access to a particular Court case. Each litigant or member of the public creates a Justice Cloud account with an email and password, which is free, to play Court content that has been distributed to them.

They are provided with an email indicating that access has been granted along with a link to play. Audio and video, or audio alone, may be provided via the link. The link is only playable by the person that it has been released to and cannot be shared or forwarded.

The audio/video recording is not downloadable. All access of any Court Content is tracked in the Activity Log for that particular recording, showing when the content was played, by whom, their IP address, location, web browser and exactly to the second what they listened to.

Access to any recording may be revoked at any time by the Court Staff, making the link that was provided to the litigant or member of the public inoperable, and the party receives an email indicating that their access has been revoked. All delivered content contains a customized Disclaimer created by the Court jurisdiction.



Does this give judges any discretion to prohibit cameras when dignity and privacy are concerns? Can judges opt out of this or is it mandatory?

The FTR solution can seal any Court Content, either during the proceeding or post-proceeding, which further restricts access to the Court record to those designated Court Staff that have access to non-public content.



Having judges/attorneys change behavior if they know clips are going to end up on social media or cable news?

Currently any Court transcript can be distributed to the cable news or social media. Judges can also address this behavior by enforcing strict courtroom decorum.



In high profile cases, over the years, normal courtroom proceedings could turn into political theater rather than forums focused on justice. Could that be a concern?

Jurisdictional rules are in existence that prevent photography and video recording of Court cases. FTR abides by all rules and regulations regarding audio and video recording.



Can you point me to where there is anything to control courtroom footage being used in campaign ads or political advocacy? Can you tell me where in the bill it talks about courtroom footage, something to control it being used in campaign ads or political advocacy?

Senate Bill 1386 does not include any language addressing courtroom audio/video footage being used in campaign ads or for political advocacy. There is language that addresses the Administrative Office of the Court to promulgate rules for the use of audio and video recording equipment in courtrooms, and Section 1512(C)(7) addresses standards prohibiting the use of photographing or recording.

The use of audio/video recordings as suggested in the question may be addressed in Oklahoma's election laws.



Is there any concern attorneys could get caught up in becoming social media phenomena or celebrities and start performing more to the camera rather than focusing on the merits of the case?

Given today's public social media platforms and the opportunity is there for lawyers to exercise performative advocacy, courts and bar associations across the country are discussing this issue.

Senate Bill 1386 addresses courtroom transparency by giving the public access to justice and litigants being guaranteed their right to a fair, speedy, and public trial. It is important to focus on the reason for the legislation.



In high profile cases, over the years, normal courtroom proceedings could turn into political theater rather than forums focused on justice. Could that be a concern?

Jurisdictional rules are in existence that prevent photography and video recording of Court cases. FTR abides by all rules and regulations regarding audio and video recording.



Someone couldn't opt out from being videoed? If the video cameras are set up, they could decide to seal it but still that victim or potentially that witness, or maybe juror, they would still be there and they would still be on camera; is that correct?

This is incorrect. The cameras are focused on the Judge, attorneys and witness. The Judge or Court Staff can turn off any or all of the cameras at any time during a proceeding, yet still record audio.

OKLAHOMA'S COURT REPORTER SHORTAGE

A SNAPSHOT OF STATEWIDE STAFFING AND GEOGRAPHIC ACCESS

AUTHORIZED POSITIONS STATEWIDE

192
AUTHORIZED
COURT REPORTER
POSITIONS
IN OKLAHOMA



Based on a 2026 legislative fiscal analysis, there are 192 authorized court-reporter positions in Oklahoma's state court system, not all filled.

VACANT POSITIONS FEBRUARY 2026

ABOUT
72
VACANT
POSITIONS



Sen. Gillespie's Senate release reported about 72 vacant court-reporter positions in February 2026.

FILLED POSITIONS CALCULATED ESTIMATE

ABOUT
120
FILLED
POSITIONS



Calculated estimate: $192 - 72 = 120$.
This is a calculation based on reported vacancies and is not an official AOC headcount.

COUNTIES WITHOUT A COURT REPORTER

25 OF 77
COUNTIES

NO COURT REPORTER ON STAFF



An April 2026 Oklahoma Bar Foundation article reported that 25 of Oklahoma's 77 counties had no court reporter on staff at all.



Vacancy figures can change over time.

Sources: Oklahoma Senate, Feb. 25, 2026; Oklahoma Bar Foundation / Oklahoma Bar Journal, Apr, 2026; Oklahoma legislative fiscal analysis (192 authorized positions).



THE COST OF A COURT REPORTER SHORTAGE

When a local reporter is unavailable, the cost does not disappear it shifts.



TRAVEL

2026 state mileage rate:
76¢ per mile after July 1.

200-mile round trip =
\$152 mileage reimbursement.



TEMPORARY COVERAGE

Temporary court reporters
may be paid by the court fund
at a locally set rate; required
out-of-county travel is
reimbursable.



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Credential pay can add up
to \$8,000 per year.
Rural-service financial
incentives are also offered
for eligible reporters.



STATEWIDE STAFFING PRESSURE

FY 2027 AOC request:
\$2.2347 million recurring
for Certified Shorthand
Reporter salary increases.