

**Delaware Courts to increase e-document fee
to support universal e-filing initiative
Dec. 8, 2015**

Five of Delaware's six courts will be adjusting the technology fee for the electronic filing of documents in order to defray the costs of expanding the Delaware Courts' e-filing system.

The Delaware Judiciary is sensitive to the effect of fee increases and the adjustments were reviewed for reasonableness to ensure that any change would not act as a barrier for lower income litigants. No fees related to criminal cases will be changing as a result of this initiative. The technology fee has not been adjusted in any of the Delaware Courts since 2007 or 2008 and in some cases the fee has not been adjusted since its inception. The average per-case increase will range from 70 cents to \$31, depending on the court.

The Court of Chancery, Superior Court, and Justice of the Peace Court will increase the electronic document filing fee in each court from 50 cents per document to \$1.25 per document effective on January 1, 2016. The Court of Common Pleas will increase its electronic document filing fee from \$1.00 per document to \$1.25 per document and the Supreme Court will increase its electronic document fee from 50 cents per document to \$1.50 per document effective on January 1, 2016.

Family Court will institute a technology fee of \$1.25 per document at a later time, when e-filing is implemented in that court.

The Delaware Judiciary is transitioning to a single e-filing system for all Delaware Courts, including both civil and criminal cases. The expectation is that this common approach will make the process easier for litigants, maximize the sharing and accessibility of information and minimize archiving of court records, saving both money and work hours in the long run. With one unified e-filing system, rooms filled with shelves and boxes of court documents will disappear, freeing up much-needed space in court facilities and allow key components of our justice system to do their jobs more quickly while having access to better information. The e-filing initiative is being implemented without using the state's General Fund monies for on-going operations.

Each Delaware Court that is adjusting the technology fee has amended its rule to implement the change. For more information on the rule changes in each court, please visit the "rules" page on the Delaware State Courts website at <http://courts.delaware.gov/rules/>.