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Harris County Jury Service Now Includes Free WIFI

Harris County District Clerk, Bridges Digital Gap in Jury Service

HOUSTON (July 08, 2009) –Today’s universal tech boom has given way to ‘digital dependence.’ Harris County citizens are no different when it comes to relying on digital connection. In a move bridging a major digital divide and potentially improving attendance to Jury Service, Harris County District Clerk (HCDC) Loren Jackson announced public wireless Internet in the Harris County Jury Assembly Room.

As of today, people summoned to Jury Service can bring their laptop, personal digital assistant (PDA) or other wireless-ready device to access filtered, wireless Internet while waiting their turn in the jury selection process.



“Jury Service is crucial to the judicial system of Harris County. We are doing our part to make it more convenient for our citizens to show up when they’re summoned,” said Jackson. “Providing them with free WIFI enables them to stay connected to their family, and their work. Jury Service should be thought of as ‘a great form of civic service,’ not just an obligation or duty. Jury Service is a way to serve your community and your peers.”

In Harris County, approximately 3000 people report for jury service each week, many who count on online access to stay productive and connected. Prospective jurors now can use their own personal laptop computer or PDA to access the Internet. While content filtering will be utilized, prospective jurors will be able to use instant messaging, e-mail, access most media and general content websites, and utilize general search engines. Prospective jurors should ensure their digital devices are fully charged prior to reporting for jury service, as there are a limited number of power outlets available for use within the Jury Assembly Room.

The office of the Harris County District Clerk set providing wireless Internet access to prospective jurors high on its priority list and worked closely with AT&T for several months to secure the installation that will service most of the first floor surrounding the Jury Assembly Room.

The installation of wireless Internet in the Jury Assembly Room is just part of a greater initiative by the District Clerk’s office utilizing technology to provide improved, efficient services and greater convenience to the public.

To learn more about Jury Service, visit www.hcdistrictclerk.com and click on **Jury**.