



SCHOOL OF LAW

UC Law e-Court

The School of Law of the University of Canberra Faculty of Business, Government & Law, is proud to have as part of its range of facilities an e-Court - one of the first truly technology-orientated courtrooms in Australia and in the entire Southern Hemisphere; an ideal facility for both educational and professional purposes.



In times when renewed attention is given to advocacy training and the incorporation of oral communication skills into education generally, the e-Court ensures the ideal framework to gather real-life court experience, but without the pressure of a real courtroom; hence, the e-Court is regularly used for research, teaching, mooting and extracurricular activities by students of the Law School and other UC faculties.

In addition, the e-Court is an ideal location for professional training, testing and evaluation purposes by external organizations. Moreover, the e-Court is fully equipped for remote hearings and it ensures the conditions for trials or events requiring maximum confidentiality.



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Background:

The UC e-Court was first opened in 1996. At the time, it was one of the first moot courts to incorporate modern technology in its design. Back then, Australian courtrooms were only beginning to install facilities such as videoconferencing, electronic document display, audiovisual recording and Internet access.

The e-Court played a pioneering role in research in the field of court technology; for example:



- it has been the site of several empirical research projects on the use of videoconferencing;
- it has provided an excellent and realistic courtroom environment for several generations of law students participating in mooting and advocacy training;
- it has served as a real courtroom when the ACT Court of Appeal heard its first electronic appeal here in 2003.

The e-Court still fulfils these roles, while also functioning as a teaching space, as well as providing facilities for a range of external clients who use it for witness training, as a videoconferencing facility, or a meeting place.

Following a complex upgrade, the refurbished e-Court was officially re-opened by the Hon Chief Justice Robert French AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, on Wednesday 16 June 2010. The upgrades and refurbishment have been enabled by a grant from the Better Universities Renewal Fund (\$190,000), with the purpose of ensuring that the e-Court is keeping pace with changes in technology and the needs of our current generations of students and external clients. This has come at a time when the School of Law is giving renewed attention to advocacy training, and the incorporation of oral communication skills into the curriculum more generally. A particular focus of this upgrade has been in the installation of evidence display technology that can link both to a computer network in the courtroom, to the University wider network, and to the Internet.



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Services:

The e-Court is equipped with complex technology enabling interactive evidence display, audio-video and PowerPoint presentation, recording, videoconferencing and other network connections. In addition to wireless internet access from the e-Court through the UC network, the following services are available through the built-in e-Court technology:



- audio-video enabled lectures/presentations;
- document and PowerPoint presentations with the users' own or a provided laptop;
- videoconferencing by Polycom HDX 8006 (IP address available upon booking request);
- internet-based communication and presentations;
- interactive display using an Inkspot program enabling touch screen drawing;
- audio-video recording producing Echo, DVD or video files suitable for most players;

Booking:

The e-Court is free for use for teaching by the UC School of Law and offers very competitive rates for external users. Online booking is available through the e-Court website, but feel free to contact our friendly staff with any inquiry.

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