



---

# BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE

---

For immediate release: MAY 11, 2006

For further information contact:  
Trial Court Administrator's Office  
Jude Del Preore or Donna Mazzanti  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
49 Rancocas Road  
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060  
609-518-2510

## **COURTS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF VIDEO TECHNOLOGY**

**MOUNT HOLLY** – This month marks the tenth anniversary of the implementation of video technology in the Burlington County Superior Court. The implementation of this technology was a result of the collaborative efforts of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Judiciary to increase efficiency. This technology application has expanded and improved over the years, but it has constantly achieved the following goals. It has reduced the demand on sheriffs' resources to transport prisoners, it has expedited the scheduling of daily hearings before the court and it has provided a verbatim video record of proceedings. Burlington County's Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney noted that "It is important that courts utilize technology in a way that preserves individual rights and remains pure to the purpose of our courts. This application has been true to our core purpose and guarantees individuals their day in court, albeit by video," Sweeney said.

The original system linked four courtrooms to the three county detention and correctional facilities via a fiber optic network. The fiber optic system was state of the art at the time and provided high quality video, but it restricted connection to the three county sites. Eventually the system expanded to six courtrooms and late last year converted from fiber optic to ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) communication. This system allows voice and data to be transmitted simultaneously across the world using end-to-end digital connectivity. It is a more cost effective alternative.

Since the start of the project the courts have conducted over 25,000 video events consisting of first appearances, bail reduction motions, juvenile proceedings, remote witness testimony and child support warrant hearings. The success of the video hearings in the Superior Court led to introducing the technology to the county's municipal courts over five years ago.

Similar to the superior court, the municipal courts in Burlington County make extensive use of video technology. Of the forty municipal courts in the county, more than three quarters use video conferencing equipment to handle arraignments and other basic matters for defendants who are incarcerated. Aside from the obvious security benefits, video conferencing saves the county and municipalities significant amounts of money, since far fewer defendants need to be transported to court from the county jail and other state institutions. Judge Sweeney concluded, "Technology allows the courts of Burlington County to better serve the public."

###