

New Notice of Appearance Form Saves Time, Money, and Effort

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Circuit Court of Collier County
3301 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34112

January 9, 2009

Dear CCBA members,

I want to commend and thank The Honorable Robert L. Crown for writing the article *Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury* that was published in the *Adverse Witness* in November 2008.

Judge Crown's article explains that Clerk's Office recently implemented a new computer program supporting traffic court that makes the court system and the Clerk's Office more effective and efficient in supporting the administration of justice in Collier County. Judge Crown pointed out that this new "paperless" system allows judges to view everything online and this approach will be soon expanded to include all criminal cases.

However, in the article he also pointed out that there are other efficient measures that can be implemented immediately to the benefit the courts and the clerk's office without sacrificing any rights or due process for defendants. For example, the *Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury* article points out that initial pleadings at the beginning of a criminal case generally requires about 8 different pieces of paper, each of which must be scanned by a clerk when a criminal file is opened. However, **the State Attorneys Office has recently confirmed that it has no objection to condensing the *Notice of Discovery* and *Request to Inspect* into one consolidated initial pleading form, again, without losing any of the protections the legal process and rules guarantee.**

As the article reported, **in August 2008, 1232 criminal cases were opened in Collier County, including felonies and misdemeanors. Of those new cases, 172 had a private attorney who filed all eight pages of initial pleadings. As the Judge has correctly pointed out, if those same attorneys had filed the one page initial pleading form, we could have saved 1204 sheets of paper in one month and all of the time it took for a court clerk to scan them into the "paperless" system.**

Again, I believe this is a good example of the courts, the clerk's office and the legal community working together in ways that can, and will, make things easier for everyone and at the same time save the taxpayer's money.

Respectfully,

Dwight

PS. I have attached a copy of the new interactive **Notice of Appearance Form** for your use. It can also be located at <http://www.collierclerk.com/pdf/IANoAForm>