

SUFFOLK LAW
Moot Courtroom
 Boston, MA

Project Partners

Lantel
 Sullivan &
 McLaughlin

Solutions

Audiovisual
 Technology



Hon Walther H. McLaughlin Sr. Moot Courtroom at Sargent Hall | Photos © Chris Navin Photography

Honoring tradition with a revolutionary state-of-the-art technology integration

Suffolk University's Moot Courtroom renovation honors the courtroom's sanctity by preserving the traditional design aesthetic while modernizing with high-tech capabilities. One of the most popular spaces on campus, the Moot Courtroom is used as a teaching lab, judicial proceedings and special events. Red Thread managed the structural renovations, electrical and data infrastructure to accommodate the new technology. The team carefully integrated cameras, recessed projection screens, ceiling microphones and flat displays into the architecture without impacting the integrity and beauty of the historic space.

Law students litigate and conference

As a Teaching Lab, law students experience litigation in a courtroom setting during classes and while competing in the national moot courtroom competitions. Using the videoconferencing capabilities, one law professor connects students at Suffolk Law with his students from Georgetown University, providing a unique interactive learning experience. The system uses Skype for Business, with audio and video feeds routed to a bridge to connect remote participants across a variety of platforms.

Actual state judicial proceedings hosted

Since the Moot Courtroom has all of the technological capabilities of federal courtrooms, the Massachusetts State Attorney uses it to prepare for federal cases. The Massachusetts Attorney General used the space to confer in real time with attorney generals nationwide before appearing in the Supreme Court with regard to the same-sex marriage law. When bankruptcy and patent proceedings take place, the Moot Courtroom is accessible to students and the Boston community for educational opportunities.



Judge's Bench



Jury Box

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Flexible for simplicity or complexity

Red Thread and Brian McDermott of Suffolk University co-designed the system to accommodate the most flexible capabilities with simplicity for the end user so that technology best compliments the proceedings. Using one of three 22" touch panels, the system can be controlled at the Judge's bench, the clerk bench or from the control room. The Judge's and Clerk's panels can be set for basic source and destination selections or fully enabled as a Tech Panel with all system capabilities.

Presentation capabilities and speech reinforcement

The basic system sources include laptop, desktop computers, document camera, CATV and up to 6 video cameras. The judges preview all content before selecting for display. The destination options include two projectors, two flat screens, two judge reference monitors and two witness displays, as well as a display in the jury room and an output jack in the lobby. To ensure all participants can be heard, there are 3 gooseneck microphones located at the Judge's bench, surface-mounted microphones at the jury bench, ceiling microphones over the audience area and microphone jacks behind the plaintiff and defense tables for auxiliary microphones. Audio and video can be routed to the output jacks in multiple locations within the courtroom and lobby for portable displays, or recording devices for event or press feeds.

Six camera recording with dual and quad views

For classroom recordings, the rear camera records the instructor at the front of the room. For recording for oral arguments, 6 cameras record from locations throughout the courtroom. The camera in the front of the courtroom captures the attorney, a camera in the back captures the judge and witness, and two side cameras capture the jury boxes on each side of the courtroom. The recordings allow students to observe the Judge's and juries' reactions and reflect on their performance and impact. The system can create two simultaneous recordings with all 6 cameras, one with 4 camera views and the other with 2 camera views. A separate audio/video recorder is located underneath the judge's bench so recordings can easily be saved to a USB for grading, or for attorneys to take with them for review.



Jury Box