

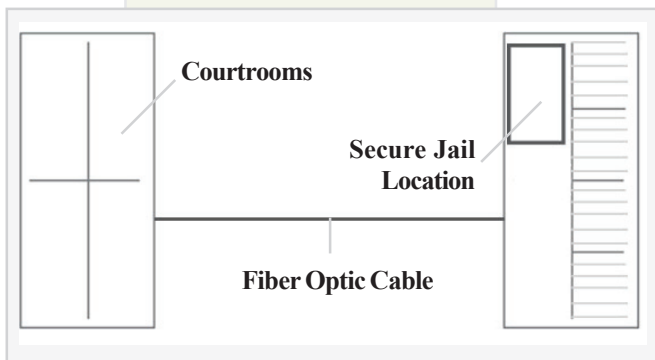
Lee County Courthouse & Sheriff's Department

Dixon, IL



Photo courtesy of: Illinois Regional Archives Depository

Courthouses today must put great emphasis on security. Video conferencing is now an essential tool in security for judicial, legal and penal environments. In addition, it saves time and money by bringing the courtroom to the inmate, instead of the other way around.



Save Money & Resources

Normally if a prisoner is arraigned in a courtroom, extra guards are needed to transport them and remain present during the arraignment process

... with video arraignment a Judge can arraign individuals from the courtroom while the prisoner remains in the secure jail location, saving time and money on transportation and manpower.

Video Arraignment Audio / Video System



Existing fiber optic infrastructure and a creative design approach resulted in a cost effective and extremely useful video arraignment system for the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

With video arraignment in place, rooms in two separate buildings create a virtual communication system between the Lee County Jail and the Lee County Courthouse.

The prisoners are taken to a secure room at the jail and the lawyer or judge arraigns them from the courthouse. The audio/video setup transfers the image of the prisoner speaking along with voice statements in real-time to each location over the fiber optic infrastructure.

The end result is a system that has added efficiency to the arraignments and has increased the security for the judges.

Extended Applications

- Video arraignments, warrants, and parole board hearings
- Video-enabled presentations such as expert witnesses
- Remote testimony by specialists, inmates and officers
- Psychiatric evaluations and consultations
- Rehabilitative distance learning programs
- Meetings between inmates and legal counsel or government representatives
- Judicial consideration of appeals and visitation