

NEWSLETTER

FROM DOCKETS



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NEWS FROM DECEMBER 30, 2020

On December 30th, 2020, Dye & Durham acquired a majority stake of the outstanding shares in the developer of Dockets, namely, Courthouse Solutions Inc. (CHS), to help accelerate the adoption of CHS' cloud-based software platform within the Canadian court system. Going forward, CHS will continue to operate as a stand-alone business.

"This acquisition is consistent with our mandate to remain at the forefront of the rapid digitalization of the industries we serve," said Matt Proud, Chief Executive Officer of Dye Durham. "We are looking forward to working with CHS's founders, Jeff Lanctot and Tim Kennaley, to further expedite the development and commercialization of CHS's Dockets software platform, which we believe has the potential to significantly increase the efficiency of courts across Canada."

AN END-TO-END CLOUD BASED VIRTUAL COURTHOUSE

Dockets is a configurable, cloud-based software solution that will enable lawyers, court staff, and judges, among others, to efficiently file and track all court documents electronically. With a focus around seamless communication, video conferencing, and court reporting, the solution is designed around customizable scheduling and calendaring systems which automatically create daily court lists (dockets) and allow for tracking of all cases from beginning to end. Built to meet the needs of various levels of courts in Canada, the system delivers a user-friendly end-to-end electronic court records and case management solution. Visit www.dockets.ca for more details.

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

In 2020, our world was faced with significant challenges arising from Covid-19. To meet these challenges, Canadian courts were required to examine and change the way that the courts provided access to justice. Paper and pen systems and brick and mortar courthouses needed to be updated to cloud-based electronic document exchange systems and virtual courtrooms. The ends of justice needed to be the same but the medium of information exchange needed to change. Many working in our Court system believe that a successful, comprehensive shift from paper files and in-person proceedings to electronic records and virtual proceedings requires that all court participants (including judges, lawyers, paralegals, court registrars, court service officers, court reporters and the public) must be able to enter the new virtual courthouse door and experience the same form of personal interaction that they experienced when they entered their local courthouses in-person. Before we were faced with the challenges arising from Covid-19, those entering our Court system:

- Would attend to review each courtroom's daily case list (docket) to see which courtroom would be hearing their matter and in what order the listed cases would be heard;
- Would stop by the court registrar's counter to file court documents and have the visual assurance that the documents were received by the court and filed in the appropriate court file;
- Speak with court staff and, if they needed to leave the courtroom briefly, could expect to be called into court by the court service officer when their matter was called;

COMING SOON!

In the very near future, Dockets will be making a component of its cloud-based software system available for use by lawyers as a secure and convenient way to upload and share documents with other lawyers and the court as prescribed by the various Notices to the Profession issued by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice that require documents to be made available by a means that does not require e-mail.

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- Would have the actual Court file in front of them for reference during the proceedings.

These are just some of the ways that a courthouse operated in-person before Covid-19. The strength and value of the virtual courthouse created by Dockets arises from the fact that its form and function mirror the features and functions of in-person court operations. As a result, court participants will be able to use their prior knowledge and experience with in-person courthouse attendances to guide their use and interaction with Dockets' virtual courthouse system which, in turn, will make for an easier learning curve.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS RECOGNIZED AND ANSWERED

The restrictions necessitated by Covid-19, have created additional worries and concerns for those interacting with the court system. For instance, some have asked:

Q1. [When I file a court document electronically, how do I know if has been filed in the correct court file since I can't see it placed in the file myself?](#)

Answer: Dockets solves this problem.

Q2. [When I read the name of my case on a court docket, how can I be sure that the judge has a complete copy of the documents I have filed in the court file unless I can open a copy of the court file directly from the docket list to make sure?](#)

Answer: Dockets has this functionality.

Q3. [If I am attending a court proceeding by video conference and must leave my computer screen for a moment, will I receive notice by e-mail and text from the court service officer to come back to my screen because my case is next in line?](#)

Answer: Dockets provides this service.

Q4. [Will I receive a reminder \(by e-mail\) the night before I am scheduled to be in court with a further text message the morning of my attendance, reminding me that I am in court that day?](#)

Answer: With Dockets: yes.

Q5. [When I provide my electronic documentation to the court, is the data in the document repository system secure, encrypted and stored within the jurisdiction of Canada?](#)

Answer: With Dockets, this is a standard function.

The Dockets system recognizes these and many other concerns regarding the operation of a virtual courthouse and offers a complete end-to-end solution to these issues.