

Adjudication Committee Minutes
All-Committee Conference
November 2009
Union Station Hotel
Nashville, TN

Representatives from Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Maryland and Kentucky attended the Adjudication Committee's All-Committee Conference at the historic Union Station Hotel. Commissioner Roger Williams of Virginia and Matt Bryant, a lawyer who leads the Virginia agency's information-technology division, presented on that state's paperless initiative and its judicial case management system. Despite the number of claims the state agency is required to handle and the novelty of paperless systems to most users, Virginia has managed to innovate in a field where few still fear to tread.

Matt gave a web file demonstration via power point to illustrate how data can be compiled, reshuffled and displayed to meet the different needs of shareholders in the system. Virginia's success in creating a virtual case management system has been due, at least in part, to Matt's ability to understand what judges and court administrators need and then to apply technology in order to meet those needs. Commissioner Williams concluded the meeting with some "lessons learned" – a kind of cautionary tale to others who are considering or in the midst of a paperless transition. First, he cautioned patience when adopting new procedures and with those affected by the procedures, particularly those who are unfamiliar with the new technology. He also wisely encouraged the adoption of a generous time line by anyone who is considering "going paperless."

All Committee Members offered kudos to both gentlemen for their success and for their willingness to share the details of the Virginia agency's paperless initiative and judicial case management system.