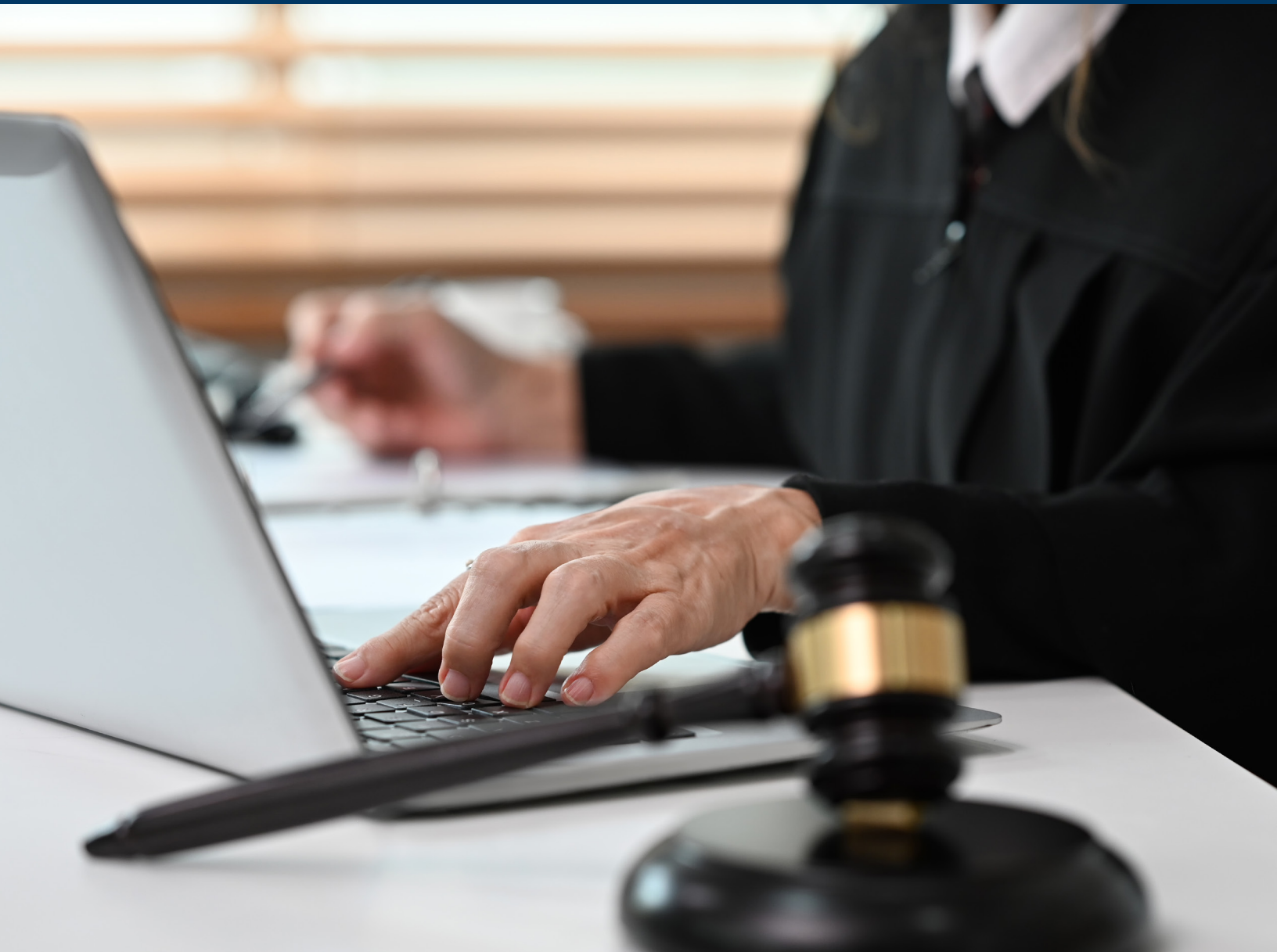




## Modernizing Caseflow:

*How Girard Municipal Court  
Reduced Paper Dependency by 75%*

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# Modernizing Caseflow: How Girard Municipal Court Reduced Paper Dependency by 75%

When Honorable Jeffery Adler was elected to serve Girard Municipal Court as their Judge, he was excited about making a difference in his community. He quickly realized the impact new technology could have on the court's efficiency and effectiveness. Physically filing papers and keeping track of court records by handwriting in a docket book only slowed caseflow down. It was time for a change.

## The Challenge: Excessive Paperwork, Handwritten Docket Books, and Inefficient Caseflow

While the court had computers, there wasn't a lot of technology that extended beyond that. As Judge Adler stepped into his new role, he recognized that outdated processes (like handwritten docket books) and lots of paperwork with the lack of electronic filing were hurting the court's overall efficiency.

Everything was done using pen and paper. For example, the Judge was still required to review decisions made by the Magistrate and physically sign off on them. Because almost everything was still handwritten, one of the major challenges the court faced was discerning what documents said. Handwriting isn't always legible, which sometimes meant Clerks would have to ask clarifying questions, slowing caseflow down even more.

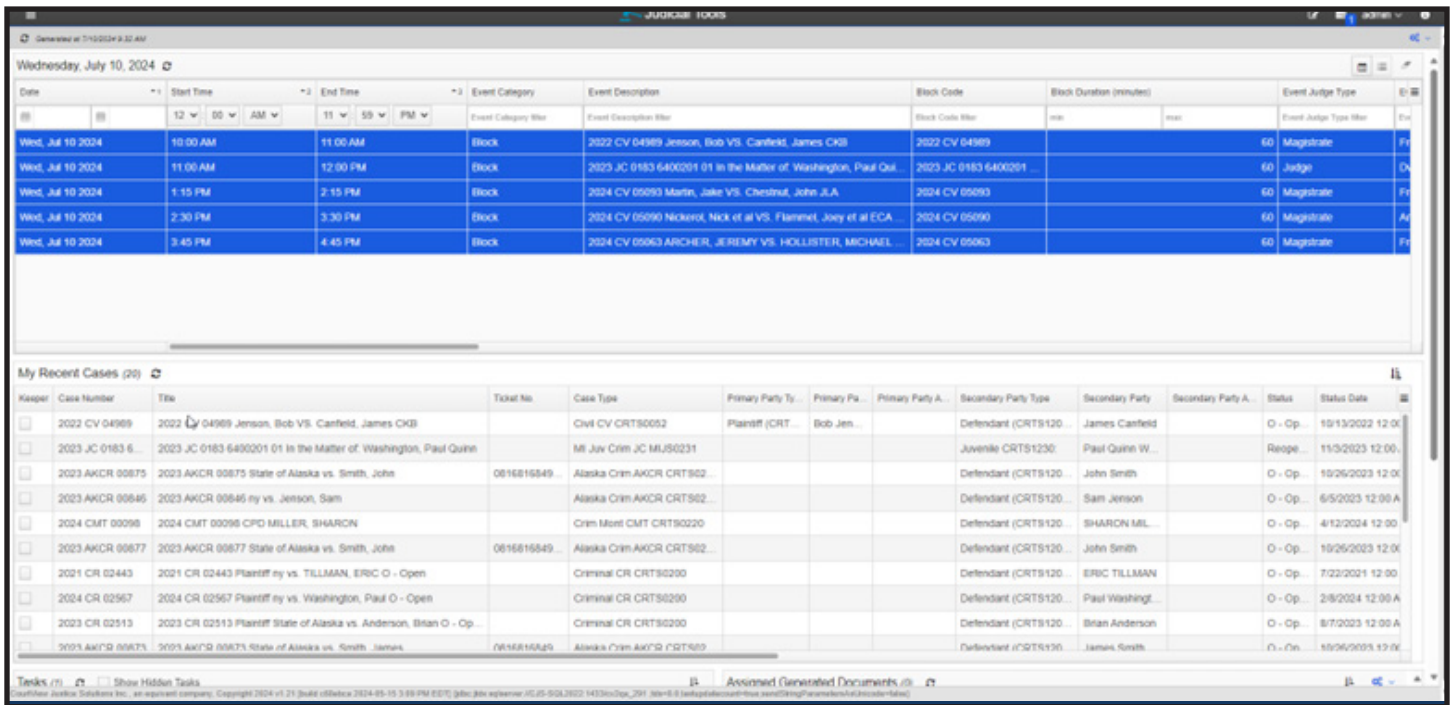
Judge Adler envisioned a solution that would significantly reduce the court's use of paper and support a more efficient caseflow.

**“ I love Judicial Tools. When I’m reviewing my Magistrate’s decisions (eviction hearings), I can get through 10 of them in 10 minutes.”**

Judge Adler

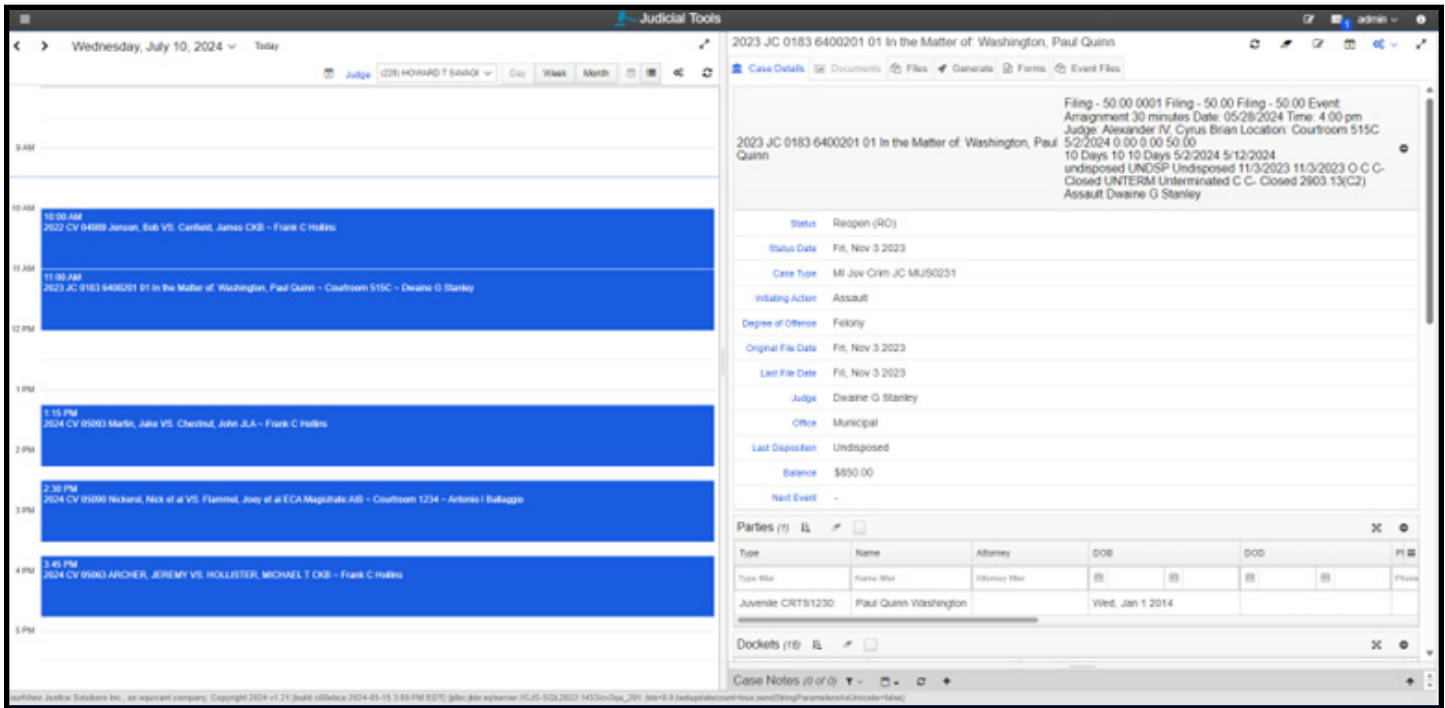
## The Solution: equivant’s Judicial Tools

Judicial Tools is a comprehensive, research-based case management tool designed specifically for Judges and Magistrates. The solution allows Judicial Officers to review, manage, and update case files from anywhere at any time. The location-specific case views allow Judges to zero in on the work at hand and because everything is completed inside the tool, it significantly reduces the need for paper and back-and-forth.



**Figure 1: Judicial Tools dashboard with calendar list and recent cases.**

With the implementation of Judicial Tools, clerks at Girard Municipal Court went from handwriting everything to clicking “see judgment entry” and easily accessing anything needed. Additionally, Judge Adler can now open Judicial Tools right at the bench to complete video arraignments. Rather than handwriting notes on the front of the file and sending it to a clerk to be transposed, everything is typed up within the Judicial Tools platform and automatically sent to the necessary people.



**Figure 2: Judicial Tools calendar grid with case selected and case details.**

## The Results: Reduced Paper Dependency, Fewer Mistakes, and More Time to Focus on Cases

Judges have a lot on their plate. In Girard County alone, Judge Adler would regularly have 20-30 small claims cases at any given time. Getting through all those cases took several hours, but with Judicial Tools, knocking out that many cases now takes as little as 30 minutes.

In addition to reducing the time required to get through cases, the implementation of Judicial Tools helped Girard County by:

- ▶ Reducing paper dependency by 75%
- ▶ Reducing handwritten arraignment dockets and pre-trial judgment entries by 95%
- ▶ Allowing the Judge to access the system at anytime from anywhere
- ▶ Reducing mistakes made due to handwritten files
- ▶ Increasing overall court efficiency
- ▶ Streamlining tasks required for effective caseflow

## The Conclusion: Judicial Tools Streamlines Processes and Improves Caseflow Efficiency

With the implementation of Judicial Tools, Girard County reduced paper dependency by an impressive 75%. They also improved their internal processes to support more efficient caseflow and freed up valuable time and resources for the Judge, Magistrate, and Clerk.

If you're interested in addressing the needs of Judicial Officers in your court while improving your processes, [contact us](#).

### About equivalent

equivalent delivers customer-centric solutions that simplify justice by boosting efficiency, streamlining processes, and improving communication in courts and justice agencies. equivalent's innovative technologies, including an award-winning case management system, have been developed by expert practitioners and have supported more than 350+ justice agencies in serving their communities efficiently, effectively, and equitably.

We are proud to deliver a full suite of solutions to justice agencies that encompass:

- Dynamic case and workflow management
- Advanced data sharing and integration tools
- Enterprise content management solutions
- Robust eServices and Online Community Portals

**“** Judicial Tools makes things easier for all stakeholders. It has been a game-changer. And now I've got it on my iPhone, laptop, and desktop. I can do anything I need to for a case 24 hours a day.”

Judge Adler