



Lydia Gardner

Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts
Orange County • Florida

Electronic Case Filing (ECF)

ECF allows attorneys and *pro-se* litigants to electronically initiate cases and file subsequent pleadings 24/7. For them, that means no rushing to get to the courthouse before it closes, no need to pay runners for their time and gas, and significant savings on paper and postage. Additionally, the process from intake to issuance takes a matter of minutes or hours vs. days, and registered attorneys and *pro-se* litigants are notified electronically of any action in the case. We have estimated that as of October 2009, ECF had saved the Clerk's Office \$245,000, based in part on the fact that it costs us \$3.36 less to process a case that is filed electronically. **It also had cumulatively saved customers nearly 6,897,000 hours and the Clerk's Office nearly 12,000 hours. As of November 17, 2009, more than 9,000 cases and 423,000 documents had been e-filed. Also, 5,004 attorneys had been trained by Clerk's personnel and were registered to use the system.** Clerk Lydia Gardner, considered Florida's "technology clerk," has been named chairman of a statewide committee that will create a Florida portal for Electric Case Filing. **Cost-avoidance to the organization: \$245,000**