



**Vidyo**<sup>™</sup>

Personal Telepresence

## APPLICATION NOTE

# Vidyo Conferencing for Legal Services

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# Vidyo Conferencing for Legal Services

## Helping lawyers and law firms manage and control costs

Video conferencing is finally of legal age. From informal meetings to video-conferenced witness interviews and depositions, legal professionals are now using video conferencing to conduct case-related services around the world, eliminating the need to travel across town or across the globe. Without the use of video conferencing, costs related to travel can reach into the hundreds of thousands per year for a mid to large sized law firm.

Video conferencing today serves as an important medium of clear communication when people cannot be physically present in the same location. As well as lowering expenses, a primary benefit of video conferencing is increased efficiency. It allows for more flexible scheduling of depositions or meetings, as travel and delays in attendance no longer need to be factored into planning. In a profession where unnecessary “billable hours” are a frustration to clients, the use of video conferencing ensures that a lawyer’s time is not wasted in airports and cabs. This is a benefit to lawyers and their clients, alike. Additionally, law professionals can now use video conferencing to perform depositions, deliver training, and comply with mandatory continuing legal education. And, any of these abovementioned video meetings may be recorded for later viewing on the attorney’s, court reporter’s or judge’s desktop or laptop computer.

## Unique advantages of video conferencing for judicial purposes, globally

Beyond U.S. boundaries, the term “tele-justice” is increasingly being used, world-wide, to describe the use of interactive video for conducting judicial proceedings.

For example, India has undertaken a nationwide project to connect jails and district courts across the country via a tele-justice or video conferencing system. With tele-justice, a defendant can be present in a court through a video link between the prison and the court. It is expected that in the near future, about 300 jails and 2,000 courts in India will be connected in this manner via video conferencing.

In Singapore, the concept of tele-justice has been extended to what is known as “tele-visits.” The tele-visit system allows prison inmates to communicate remotely with visitors at various centers located near train stations throughout the country. This service eliminates the need for visitors to have to physically go to prisons, which are located in remote, logistically challenging areas of Singapore.

## Vidyo Conferencing . . . a “must have” for all law firms

Due to its numerous benefits, including significant productivity gains, cost savings and employee safety, video conferencing is high on the list of technological innovations that have the greatest impact on helping a law firm grow its bottom line. Until recently, law firms had very little choice but to use dedicated

networks specifically designed to support video conferencing, and had to manage expensive video conferencing-based room systems. This meant a law firm needed to make a large investment for the network, equipment and technical staff. Scheduling and participating in video conferences were cumbersome, at best. Scheduling a meeting, booking a conference room, conducting a remote interview, or understanding how to work a product feature, would involve contacting a third-party for support. The process was both complicated and expensive. That is, until the advent of VidyoConferencing in early 2008.

VidyoConferencing has done away with the need for expensive dedicated networks and complex purpose-built equipment. VidyoConferencing provides the highest quality transmission and reception of HD video over shared IP networks (including the Internet) on standard computers. Why is HD so important? Because HD delivers a natural, life-like experience that is imperative for legal proceedings and services. VidyoConferencing provides the same key advantage as face-to-face meetings: the ability to clearly observe participants' reactions; even subtle expressions, and body language.

### VidyoConferencing: Access to Everyone ... Anywhere

With VidyoConferencing, law firms, courts, legal non-profits and law schools all can provide conferencing access to appropriate participants who have laptop or desktop computers, without the need for dedicated networks, or physical spaces for room-based video conferencing. Face-to-face depositions can be conducted across any distance, expert witnesses can be part of trial preparation without the extra time and money usually incurred by travel, and legal colleagues can confer with one another without having to worry about scheduling and involvement of in-house technical staff or a third-party vendor.

Through Vidyo's recording appliance, VidyoReplay, depositions can be recorded for the attorneys and ultimately, the court to review at any time. Attorneys often collaborate asynchronously on complex, lengthy legal documents, so being able to record the shared document or discussions around the document for later review is of great benefit to multi-site law offices.

Vidyo is the first company to license technology and deliver products built upon an entirely new video conferencing architecture that utilizes a recently approved "scalable" video compression standard which delivers unparalleled video quality over unreliable networks including the Internet. Because of this unique ability – allowing disparate people to participate in video meetings from many locations, regardless of where they are – law firms, legal service centers, and judicial services providers no longer need to be concerned about the equipment, management, logistics and costs of video conferencing. The Internet is the key to access, worldwide, for law practitioners ... and VidyoConferencing is the only technology that holds the key to easily achieving the much needed benefits of this communications breakthrough for legal services.

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