



Judicial staff attorney Kelly A. Echols uses a *Rear Projection SMART Board* interactive whiteboard to review evidence at the Lake County Courthouse in Painesville, Ohio.

A favorable verdict for SMART products

Judge Eugene A. Lucci is all about getting justice. At the Lake County Courthouse in Painesville, Ohio, he hears civil and felony cases – some of which result in the death penalty. Technology plays an important role in the courthouse, and lawyers use SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards to help argue their cases.

“Because the SMART Board interactive whiteboard can do anything that a laptop computer can do, the possibilities are limited only by the imagination of trial counsel,” says Judge Lucci.

Lake County Courthouse has been using SMART products since May 2005. Two courtrooms use a 50-inch SMART Board *for Flat-Panel Displays* interactive whiteboard. An overlay is mounted on a plasma or LCD screen and is touch sensitive, so lawyers can pick up a

pen and make notes on the display. A third room – labeled “the technology courtroom” – is loaded with electronic devices. It has a SMART Board interactive whiteboard that connects to individual flat screens for jurors, a projector and large screen, an integrated audio-video system and a teleconferencing system. In his own courtroom, Judge Lucci uses a 66-inch *Rear Projection SMART Board* interactive whiteboard with a VCR/DVD player and an AirLiner™ wireless slate.

“Attorneys trying a case with the board will be able to take advantage of the many features of the system,” says Judge Lucci. “Court trials are won by persuading the judge or jury of the merits of the case. This technology greatly assists in the task of persuasion.”

Judge Lucci says attorneys have used SMART products in dozens of cases, commonly to display videos. SMART Board interactive whiteboards replay security tapes of robberies, news broadcasts in defamation cases and videotaped depositions. Using SMART Board software, lawyers can project digital video, frame by frame or in slow motion, and write notes over it. They can also use the Magnifier to zoom in on the video and the Screen Shade to reveal only a portion of the image, enabling them to draw jurors’ attention to key evidence.

“The board connects with attorneys’ laptop computers and allows them to project any image, such as digital video and digital audio segments, onto the screen,” says Judge Lucci. “They can then use SMART Board software to create a screen shot that can be edited on the spot and printed in color as an exhibit for the jury or the court. It works great!”

SMART products also help witnesses testify, both in person and through videoconferencing. In Judge Lucci’s courtroom, witnesses draw diagrams directly on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard – to explain a car accident, for example. Those who can’t be in the courtroom are able to testify live using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and videoconferencing software. Also, witnesses on the stand can draw or make notes on the interactive whiteboard using SMART’s AirLiner wireless slate. The witness doesn’t need to approach the interactive whiteboard – yet that’s where the images are projected.

“I speak with the jurors after each trial, debrief them and get their impressions of the presentations by the lawyers. I also sit in the case as an impartial observer, and can judge how the lawyers’ use of technology persuades me,” says Judge Lucci. “SMART products help jurors better understand the information presented.”

SMART Profile Lake County Courthouse

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**Judge Lucci,
Lake County
Courthouse**