

What is the Virtual Lobby?

February 2024

Our Virtual Lobby was built to assist courts in making Zoom, Teams and other platforms more useful in the courtroom by providing more control over hearings when using those platforms.

The Virtual Lobby **allows guests to check in and mark themselves as “ready,”** prior to joining the virtual courtroom. Guests can leverage the Virtual Lobby’s powerful functionality to handle important business while waiting to join the virtual courtroom.

The Virtual Lobby brings more control and organization to remote/virtual hearings, regardless of the platform the court chooses to use for its virtual courtroom. The Virtual Lobby is a **standalone application that is compatible with Zoom, Teams, WebEx, and more.**

Scheduling and CMS Integration

For further efficiencies, the Virtual Lobby can be used in conjunction with CourtCall’s Remote Court Scheduler (RCS) for simple remote appearance scheduling using case data acquired via a seamless integration with your court’s CMS.

- Leveraging RCS allows court staff to clearly see who is appearing ahead of time
- Guests are automatically grouped by case, making it easier to see when everyone on a particular case is checked-in and ready to join the virtual courtroom.
- Courtroom staff can click once to prompt all guests on a case to join the virtual courtroom.
- Additional flexibility allows all guests or individually selected guests to be prompted to join the virtual courtroom, as needed.

Benefits and Integrated Features

Whether used on its own or with CourtCall’s RCS, the Virtual Lobby ensures a more orderly, structured approach to handling remote/virtual hearings.

- Control access to meetings that are made available to the public and eliminate unwanted distractions or unexpected participants.
- DO NOT post sensitive meeting IDs or join links directly on the court’s website. Instead, direct the public to the Virtual Lobby and allow courtroom staff to admit guests into the virtual courtroom when, and only when, the court is ready.
 - Participants can be checked in and grouped from within the Virtual Lobby and admitted into the virtual courtroom in those groups (i.e. not all at once or one by one)
 - Prompts to join the virtual courtroom will be clearly exposed in the Virtual Lobby, but no sensitive meeting information (IDs or join links) will ever be exposed to guests
- Keep the virtual courtroom distraction free by only admitting guests from the Virtual Lobby who are on the case being heard by the judge.
- Other useful functionality in the Virtual Lobby includes chat, document sharing, access to important courtroom notices, hallway conferences, and livestreaming the virtual courtroom.