

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2007

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### HIDALGO COUNTY MAKES ELECTRONIC FILING POSSIBLE

**Edinburg, Texas** – Attorneys in the County of Hidalgo have the ability to file civil documents in the District and County Courts electronically with eFiling for Courts. This service is offered to filers through the Office of **Laura Hinojosa**, Hidalgo County District Clerk, **Arturo Guajardo, Jr.**, Hidalgo County Clerk, and TexasOnline, the official website of the State of Texas.

Electronic filing enables filers to submit civil documents via the internet without printing, standing in line at the courthouse, or hiring a courier. Filers can send documents through a secure website 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any location with Internet access. The Texas electronic filing rules allow filers to submit most documents up to 11:59 pm and still meet the filing deadline.

Once a document is eFiled, the Clerk's staff can access the document through the eFiling for courts system. Clerks are able to process electronic filings anytime throughout the day, which helps avert the end of day rush that often occurs. Regardless of when the clerk accepts the document, the time and date stamp on the document reflects when the filer clicked the submit button.

Hinojosa notes, "We are excited to offer electronic filing to attorneys not only in the Hidalgo County area but throughout the nation. Although this is not a new service provided by our office, we want to take the opportunity to market it as it reduces paper and improves processing for attorneys, legal secretaries, paralegals and the courthouse staff. With this capability, the courthouse is always open for filing and it helps streamline the judicial process!"

To eFile in the County of Hidalgo, an attorney registers with one of TexasOnline's certified Electronic Filing Service Providers. The current providers are CaseFile Xpress, court File America, eLawServices, Forms Workflow, My file Runner, OneLegal, and ProDoc. Once registered, attorneys can eFile into any participating court in the state. An added bonus for attorneys is the ability to electronically "serve" copies of documents to other parties in the case, with or without a filing. Electronic Service (eService) saves staff time and the expense associated with mailing, delivering, and tracking paper copies.

"It is a constant struggle to stay on top of the diverse expectations that the public puts on county government. I am glad to say that Hidalgo County has taken a leadership role in addressing the needs of our legal community in order to keep up with the demands of today's fast-paced, instant gratification world", said Guajardo.

Pablo Almaguer, Hidalgo County Bar Association President, agrees. "The use of technology in the practice of law is ever expanding whether it be researching, drafting documents or organizing client files. The use of eFiling by the Clerk's office recognizes this pervasiveness and provides to our practice a more convenient and reliable alternative to the traditional means of filing and service."

Visit [www.TexasOnline.com/eFiling](http://www.TexasOnline.com/eFiling) for more information.

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