



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
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Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

Safety is a concern of all organizations, and there is no warning given when an emergency will occur. There is a better than a 75% probability that when a crisis or disaster strikes your organization, you will not be in your office nor will you have your Emergency Operations Plan close at hand.

Are you aware that 64% of American adults own a smartphone . . . that's according to a study done by the Pew Research Center. And, because we are so dependent on our smartphones and lost without them, some might have thought the percentage to be even higher. But for most of us, wherever we go, so go our smartphones.

As in the corporate world, court operations and government are searching for solutions to issues of concern and are developing and implementing applications significant to their particular organizations. The smartphone is no longer a device just for our personal and recreational use but has developed into a resource for the workforce.

The 19th Judicial Circuit searched for a solution to replace the 2-1/2", 3-ring binder that contained its Emergency Operations Plan. The market provides different tools and different presentation formats. Court staff found an application, "My-EOP," developed by Guest Communications Corporation (GCC). The "My-EOP" application provides full custom content in a quick reference format that is similar to a tiered (flipchart) format, and the app can be applied on a smartphone and/or tablet. The adoption of this tool provides access to

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the up-to-date Emergency Operation Plan anywhere and anytime it is necessary or required. Should an emergency occur, the contents in this app are made available for the safety and security of all judges, key personnel, employees of the 19th Judicial Circuit and the public it serves.

Since going live with the application in the 19th Circuit, two emergency (non-drill) situations have been experienced requiring evacuations. The acknowledgements received from those who used the app, during those circumstances, were very positive and favorable.

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www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us

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