Virtual Classroom

NC CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW | *Durham, NC*

THE CHALLENGE

Law school education relies on a lively real-time dialog between teacher and students, with students called upon to explain and justify their reasoning in front of their peers. Traditional web conferencing tools, based on passive presentation of slide content to students, are ineffective at delivering the same classroom experience. When NCCU's School of Law began to introduce distance education courses to better serve its students, it challenged us to create a realistic digital version of the traditional law school classroom that encouraged the kind of fast paced back-and-forth interaction that is unique to legal education.

OUR SOLUTION

A Virtual Classroom that places the instructor in a simulated law office environment, with up to date teaching tools integrated into the desktop to allow document sharing and markup. The instructor can see, be seen and interact in real time with up to 32 remote students at near life-size on wall mounted video displays. Voice activated video switching allows each student to be seen by the group when called upon to answer a question, with student names clearly visible to the instructor creating a virtual seating chart.

> "We researched how other law schools were doing distance education, and we believed that a truly synchronous experience would be much more effective. We waited until the technology became stable enough to mimic a traditional classroom experience. Kontek helped us deliver a synchronous solution in a way that's easy for the instructor to control, and very engaging for our remote students."

> — **Gregory W. Clinton, Sr.**
> *Director of IT and Facilities, NCCU School of Law*

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Custom AV furniture** including instructor's desk with integrated system control

- **Dual wall mounted video displays** with eye-level HD pan/tilt/zoom video camera

- **Presentation tools** including document camera, Windows computer, touch sensitive video display with stylus, and laptop interface

- "Law office" **stage set and room lighting**

- **Intuitive touch panel control** provides the instructor with total session control

- **Dual Polycom HD room codecs** with Polycom videoconference bridge and laptop-based software client

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Turnkey **Audio/Video** System Design and Integration