

Douglas County Bar Association Members:

On or about January 3, 2006, we anticipate the security station to be operational in the west lobby of the Douglas County Judicial and Law Enforcement Center ("LEC"). The security station will consist of walk thru and hand held metal detectors, an x-ray machine and a work station for those officers assigned to monitor this entrance.

Once the security station is fully operational all individuals, except Douglas County uniformed law enforcement officers, who enter the LEC through the west doors will be required to pass through the security station before entering the office areas of the building. This station will be manned by officers from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Individuals will be required to pass through the metal detector and all items carried into the LEC will be scanned by the x-ray machine.

Contraband and prohibited items will not be allowed to be carried into the LEC. Contraband will be seized by Sheriff's Office personnel and prohibited items will be returned to the individual who will be asked to secure the items in their vehicle or office before access to the LEC will be granted. Contraband are items which are unlawful to possess while prohibited items are those which threaten the safety and security of the LEC such as pocket knives, mace, handcuff keys or any other object which may be used as a weapon.

We realize passing through the security station before entering the LEC may be inconvenient; however, we hope you understand the responsibility the Douglas County Sheriff's Office has in providing a safe environment for all while they are conducting business within the building. Additionally, we would ask that each of you convey this information to your clients who have business to conduct at the LEC so they will be aware of the new security station and the prohibition of certain items.

Fortunately, Douglas County does not have a history of violence in the LEC; however, we want to make sure that an unfortunate event does not take place placing at risk staff and visitors to the building. Finally, those local bar association members who have the "pass card" which allows access to the law library will still be able to access the library through the south doors of the LEC.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we transition to this new system. If at anytime you have questions or concerns, please contact Lt. Robin Moore, head of Court Security, at 330-2828.

Sincerely,

Ken M. McGovern, Sheriff