

Doar sets its sights on DC courtroom

By ROSAMARIA MANCINI

LYNBROOK – In a bid to expand its presence outside of the New York area, Doar Communications Inc., a maker of high tech courtrooms, plans to open a new digital court facility in Washington, D.C. next year.

Paul Neale, vice president/general manager of litigation, said Doar targeted Washington because it ranks second behind New York in the amount of litigation conducted.

Neale said details of the new facility were not available yet, but he said it would resemble Doar's Lynbrook facility. That setup is equipped with cameras for video-

conferencing, webcasting and recording; flat panel display monitors for judges, jurors, counsel and witnesses, a projection screen for presentations; Internet access and a wireless touch screen controller to operate all the technology.

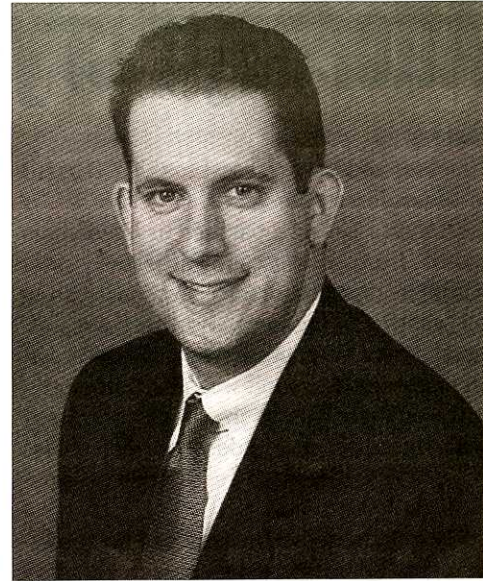
The facility, which opened a year ago, is currently used by attorneys looking to get acclimated with cutting-edge equipment and techniques prior to using them in court.

The cost of a creating a similar type of facility, which also includes mock jury rooms, three conference rooms and an executive board room – all designed as copies of actual courthouse facilities – would run about \$1.5 million, Neale said.

Costs also include tight security. At the Lynbrook facility, rooms are protected by key card access and video surveillance equipment catch every visitor move.

He added that the success of the Lynbrook facility drove the company to consider other marketplaces. "The response has been phenomenal, better than we expected," Neale said. "It's about replicating that success."

Neale said Doar would ideally like to open similar facilities in several big cities in the United States. It opened its first Manhattan office this year. The 56,000-square-foot office accommodates the firm's sales team and offers clients an extra level of support as they prepare for trial.



Doar's Paul Neale