

# NDA Webinar American LegalNet A Fresh Look at Docketing

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# Background on the Presenter

Starting working in a law firm at 16

Worked in large and small firms

Practiced law in California

Decided that Programming was more enjoyable than practicing law

Wrote Conflicts and Case Management Systems for Elite

Engaged in many studies while at Thomson Reuters

Worked on Financial, LPM, and Marketing Products

American LegalNet for 32 months

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# What is Calendaring?

My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.

Steve Jobs

Hearing and Trial Dates

Filing Deadlines

Discovery Deadlines

Contract Dates

Critical IP Dates

Internal Steps

Meetings and Appointments

What?

When?

Who?

Where?

**"Docket"** the term for the items before a judge on a given day

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# The new world order

Effectiveness

Efficiency

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# How to increase efficiency

## Specialization

- Less time to perform the same task

## Tools

- Create and manage workflows
- Can eliminate tasks altogether

## Training

- Specialized and detailed training on the best method



# Industrial Efficiency



## **Frederick Winslow Taylor**

(March 20, 1856 – March 21, 1915)

1. Replace rule-of-thumb work methods with methods based on a scientific study of the tasks.

2. Scientifically select, train, and develop each employee rather than passively leaving them to train themselves.

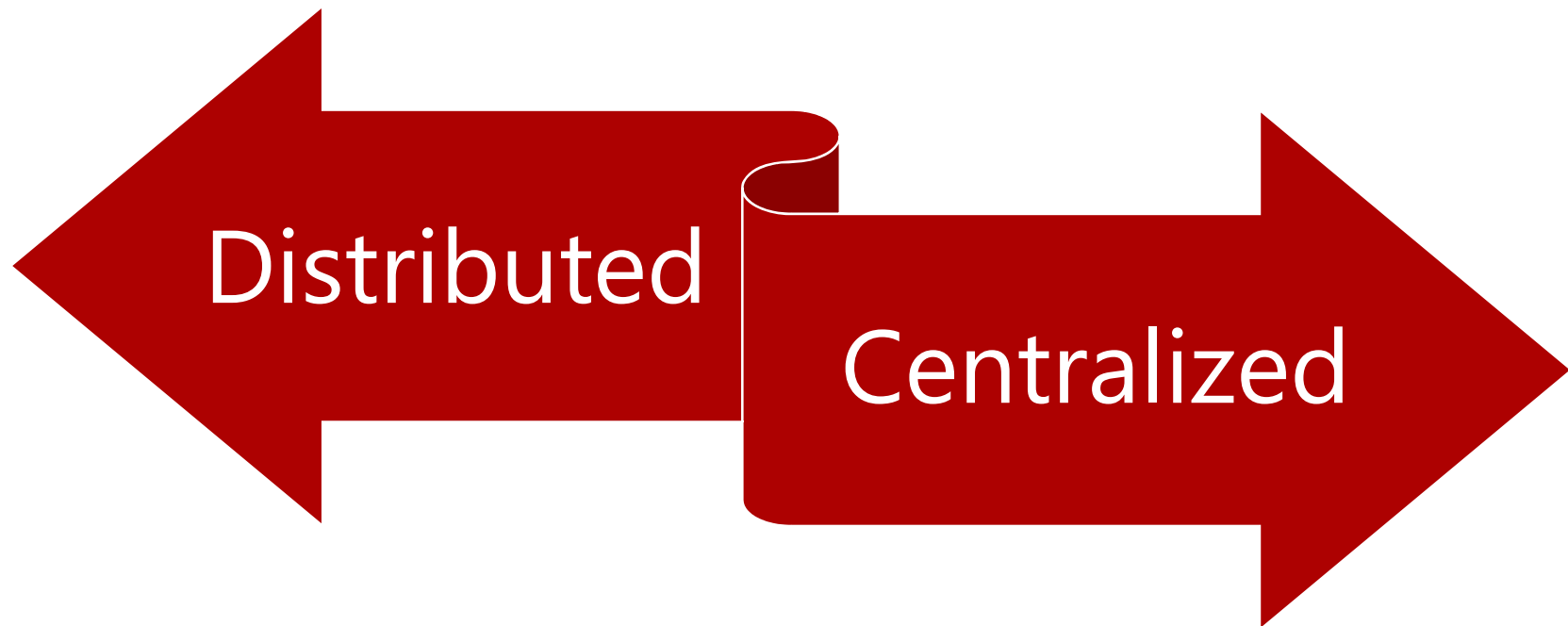
3. Provide detailed instruction and supervision of each worker in the performance of that worker's discrete task

4. Divide work nearly equally between managers and workers, so that the managers apply scientific management principles to planning the work and the workers actually perform the tasks.

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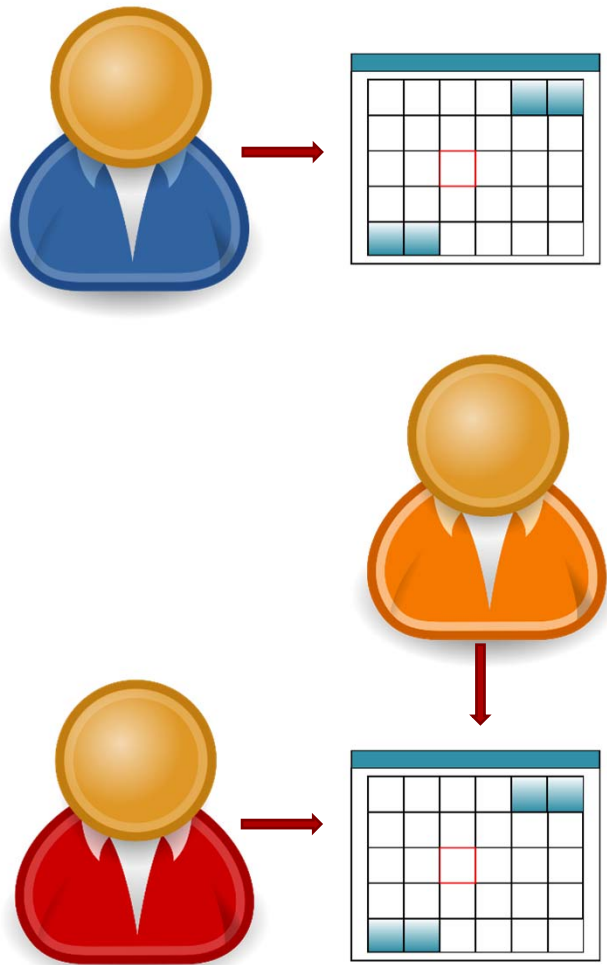
# How to manage the docketing function



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# Decentralized



Pros

- + Low initial cost
  - + Tight communication
  - + Flexible
- High ongoing cost
  - Increased chance of errors
  - Inefficient use of time
  - High training cost

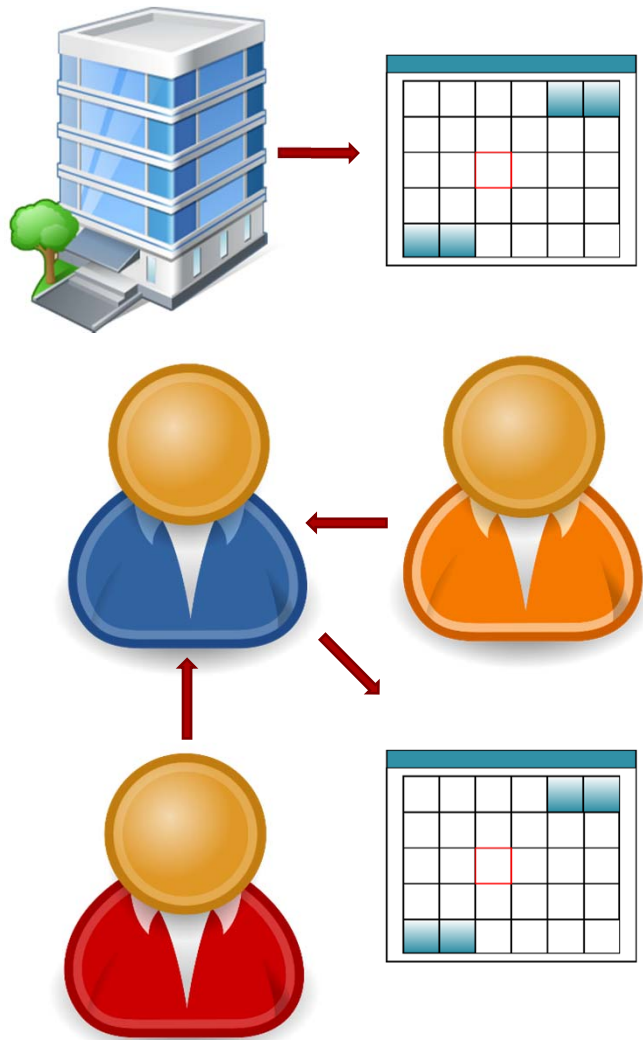
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# Centralized by Office or Practice Group



Pros

- + Specialized around practice or jurisdiction
- + Less errors prone
- + Lower ongoing cost

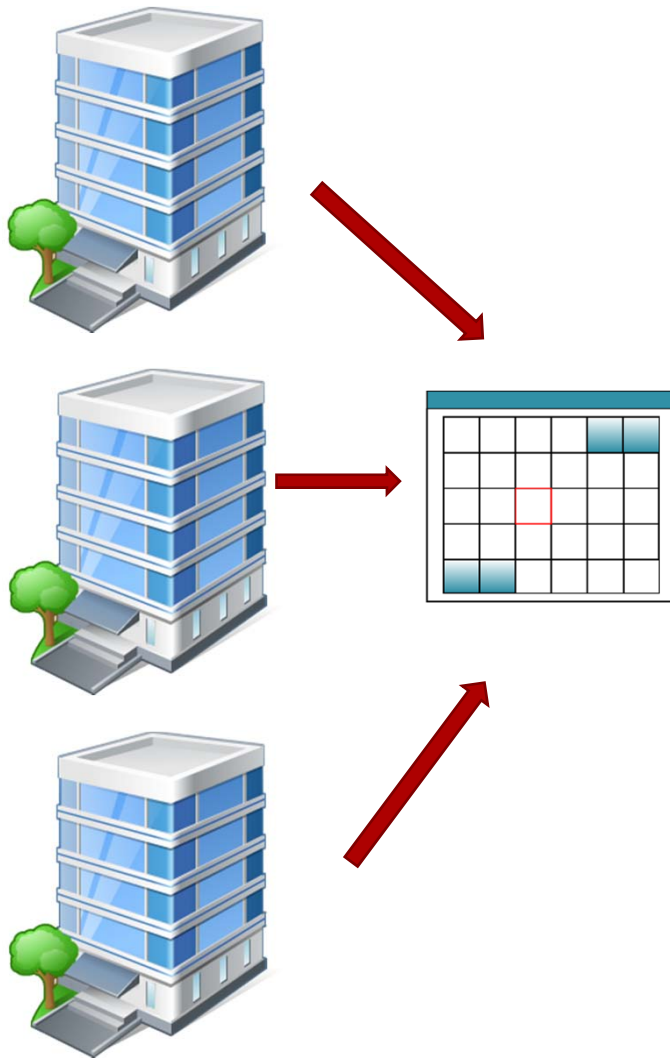
- Some initial cost
- Coverage for staff
- Medium Training Cost
- Staff may be under utilized in some offices

Cons

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# Fully Centralized



Pros

- + Most efficient
- + Least error prone
- + Lowest ongoing cost
- + Lowest training cost
- + Able to cover across offices

- High initial cost
- Requires enforcement
- Needs more communication from lawyers

Cons

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# Other responsibilities

Court Filings

Records Management

Legal Holds

Bar Admittance

Conflicts

Clerical Functions

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# ECF vs Court Data Loads

## Electronic Court Filings (ECF) → AutoDocket

- Filings Severed on other Party
- eMailed to the parties in the case
- Delivered in near real time
- PACER (Notices)

## Court Data Loads → DocketDirect

- Information available on courts' websites
- Loaded from data feeds from courts
- Delivered at fixed times each day
- PACER (Deadlines / Hearings)



# The Problem with Discovery

*"The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance - it is the illusion of knowledge."*

- Daniel J. Boorstin

Served between parties, often via email, and not filed with the court

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# Advantages (and Disadvantages) of Automated Court Rules

Automated Court Rules are written by lawyers who have studied the code of civil procedure and other applicable rules

Calculates deadlines automatically based on court rules (logical calculations)

Can calculate hundreds of deadlines in less than a second

Eliminates need to understand the rules

The issue with changing rule sets



# How eDockets Improves

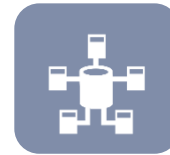
## Effectiveness & Efficiency

One System



AutoDockets

Automated Distributed Reports



Docket Direct Court Data Feeds

Court Rules



Supports Many Quality Control Work Flows

Easy to Learn Web-based Software



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# Thank You!



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