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Mark Levy has been sitting at the forefront of breakthroughs in conferencing and legal video since almost before anyone ever heard of the words "videoconferencing" or "video depositions." He has such a front-row seat on such defining moments in the transformation of "video collaboration as we know it," because it is he who has, almost entirely by himself, created, driven, or adapted the backbone of those transformations.

After working as a certified Florida law-enforcement officer for four years in the early 80's, Mark started his first video production company Accurate Video Services, Inc. in 1984. By 1992, Mark single-handedly established what would become the world's largest and fastest-growing free directory and provider marketplace of videoconferencing services, MIVNET.COM. He has been the one man behind it all, shaping and changing the face of videoconferencing in the intervening years.

Beginning with just 5 or 10 participating court reporting firms, MIVNET has now has more than 200 business class endpoints available for conferencing, and its online directory and meeting room marketplace is utilized by 1000's each month. Along the way, innovations have grown, all can share computer desktops, all can collaborate, all can record their conferences for later viewing, and very soon all will be able to connect using any hardware from an unlimited number of virtual offices in the cloud. Mark's creation offers every subscriber an instant global footprint in the searchable online MIVNET meeting room directory and marketplace. MIVNET subscribers provide suites equipped with collaboration technology to executives and corporations worldwide that need business-class meeting venues on a temporary basis. MIVNET Connect compliments subscriber locations with affordable mobility and portability for their respective clients.

Almost as soon as Accurate Video Services was established, it quickly made worldwide news when, in 1992, after the U.S. invasion the U.S. Justice Department hired Mark's company Accurate Video Services, Inc. to facilitate Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega's testimony and the testimony of his imprisoned military leaders to be preserved on video media from inside the "Modela Prison" in Panama and be presented in the U.S. courts to a judge and jury that would ultimately find him guilty.







By 1995, Mark was at the forefront of bringing videoconferencing closer into the courtroom, forever changing courtroom testimony and technologies in Florida.

A man had robbed two Argentinian tourists visiting Florida, but he would go free if the victims, now residing in Argentina, were unable to come to the Florida court to testify against him. Mark arranged for the victims to testify in Argentina via his company's videoconferencing service...and the victims saw justice served as the robber was convicted.

And the use of videoconferencing in criminal cases was upheld by the Florida Supreme Court. Mark had thus single-handedly virtually resolved much of the problem of felony cases being lost when witnesses failed to appear either because of illness, logistics, or personal conflicts or fear.

In another instance Mark was able to assist the state of Florida in case of someone falsely practicing medicine.



Prosecution calls damaging witness

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER

FLORIDAN STAFF WRITER

Although most of the first day's testimony in the trial of Nelson Ramos was taken up by the satellite deposition of a key witness in Spain, prosecutor Larry Basford had time to put one damaging witness on the stand at the close of the day.

Ramos is accused of practicing medicine without a valid license and of deceiving the public into thinking he had one.

Dr. Hector Salcedo took the stand around 4 p.m., denying he had written two letters in evidence which bear his name.

The letters requested that officials send a copy of his foreign-educated physician's certificate in care of Nelson Ramos to an address in Puerto Rico. The letters stated he'd lost his original and needed a replacement.

Salcedo testified he'd never even heard of Ramos, that he was in surgery at the time one of the letters was faxed to officials, and then produced his original certificate.

The certificate is required of all foreign-educated physicians who wish to practice in Florida, and prosecutors claim Ramos used Salcedo's certificate number when he applied for his Florida license.

Salcedo, of Illinois, also said he'd never been to the Puerto Rican city where the certificate was to be sent.

Testimony in the case resumes at 9 a.m. today.

Below left, Dr. Ferran Clemente looks over documents as he testifies via satellite from Spain. Below, Magistrate Aguirre of Spain listens in as Dr. Ferran Clemente testifies in the Ramos trial. At right, Mark Levy monitors the satellite feed as testimony is taken live from a location in Spain. Sonja Revells/Floridan





What paved the way for this transformation to happen was Mark's founding in 1993 of the Metropolitan Interactive Video Network (MIVNET), an association of public room providers of videoconferencing services. It began primarily for court-reporting agencies but quickly grew to include

other types of businesses. Mark was able, perhaps for the first time in Florida legal history, if not in the nation, to arrange for the victims' videoconferencing outside of the courtroom and to set up cameras, screens, and microphones in the courtroom that allowed the victims to be seen by the jury, the defendant and the inquiring attorney, while providing the accuser the ability to see the victims (thus preserving his constitutional right to "confront his accuser").

Today, although it continues to be used by a vast number of law firms, court-reporting agencies, and other business entities, Mark's virtual facilities are also used for a wide variety of business and educational purposes. Webinars, for instance, can be conducted with 100s of students viewing and participating. In all, as many as 2000 sessions each month are conducted by law firms, classrooms, executives, and others using the VLS virtual facilities.



Now, as he is about to unleash a breakthrough standard in real-time Web communication, with a software innovation called MIVNET Connect powered by eZuce, Mark Levy is sitting once again at the forefront, ushering in an era of ubiquitous, high definition video conferencing in which anyone can connect any device from any location, all virtual, all low cost, all via the cloud.