

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



High-Density Solution Adds Order in the Knox County Criminal Court

CHALLENGE

For more than 30 years, the evidence room of the Knox County Criminal Court was somewhat of a puzzle. To be more specific, it was one of those puzzles that only the maker of the puzzle fully understood. That's because a single staff member was the only person who knew where everything was placed. Items as diverse as clothing, bicycles, doors and even bedframes and other furniture were clogged in the room with a less-than-ideal organizational system. Inventory was kept on index cards, ala the old library card catalogue system.

"We knew we needed to do something," said Mike Hammond, the criminal court clerk for Knox County, Tennessee. *"If a judge or a lawyer*

or anybody, really, needed something, there was only one person who could point things out. If that person was sick or out of town, we'd have a real issue."

Patterson Pope Sales Representative Scott Bertini concurred. *"The evidence room was filled to the brim with a wide assortment of items. While these were strategically placed in the room, it wasn't done in a way that was easily understandable to those who didn't regularly work with the evidence. The room was also becoming too small for the growing collection."*

SOLUTION

After measuring the room itself and its contents – some of which had to be moved just to access other items – the Patterson Pope design team went to work ascertaining the best solution for the given space. A powered high-density shelving system was selected as the foundational product.

In addition to adjustable space for boxes and other standard pieces of evidence, the unit boasts a keypad entry lock and lockable drawers meant to secure more sensitive items, including narcotics and money. Also locked are specialty weapons racks for guns. Bike-hanging rails and wire rods to organize court room posters round out the system's storage capabilities. At 468 square feet, the high-density unit helped to create valuable floor space.



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"We took the time to get it right, and it's made a big difference. We took this step to not only make things better today, but to make us effective for 10, 15, even 30 years down the road."

Mike Hammond
Criminal Court Clerk
Knox County, Tennessee

ACHIEVEMENT

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In addition, having every item catalogued on new computer software helps to ensure the integrity of the evidence storage. Attorneys, judges and other law enforcement professionals can now rest assured that the items held in the Knox

County Criminal Court evidence storage room are organized, secure, and easily accessible to those who need it.

"I would definitely recommend that anyone considering a similar project invite Patterson Pope in for a consultation," added Hammond. "It was well worth the time and effort. We couldn't be more pleased with the results."

