



MEDIA ADVISORY MA #29-09

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Advisory Group Named *Panel Will Advise on Proposed Family Justice Center in San Jose*

San Francisco—A project advisory group has been named for the proposed Family Justice Center in downtown San Jose. The panel will provide high-level community review of plans by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Superior Court of Santa Clara County on the proposed replacement courthouse. The 20-courtroom building will replace six leased facilities scattered in the downtown area and will centralize family law services to the public.

Named to head the panel is Rona Rothenberg, FAIA, Senior Manager of the AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management. Other members represent a broad base of community elected officials and leaders. A complete list of project advisory group members is attached.

The selection of a project advisory group is among the first of many steps toward realization of the proposed new Family Justice Center. The panel will provide feedback intermittently on the project vision, plans, and progress with the court and AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management. The AOC will manage design and construction of the courthouse and is currently assessing a possible site across the street from the San Jose Downtown Superior Court on land offered in donation by the county.

The proposed project, with a total estimated cost of \$184.1 million before debt service, is a collaboration between the State of California and the County of Santa Clara, with the state providing \$44 million from court user fees, fines, and penalties under Senate Bill 1407, not the state's general fund. The courthouse is critically needed because the current leased facilities are overcrowded, unsafe, and insufficient to meet the needs of the public. The proposed courthouse will improve access to justice for the residents of Santa Clara County by consolidating all of the Superior Court of Santa Clara's family justice services, including family court, juvenile dependency court, drug court, probate court, a self-help center, grand jury, and related services, in a single, centralized location.

More about the project can be found on the California Courts Web site:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_santaclara.htm

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

Santa Clara Family Justice Center Project Advisory Group - 8/7/09

Last	First	Title, Organization
Beall	Jim	Assemblymember, CA State Assembly - District 24
Bell	Shirley	President, St. James Historic District Neighborhood Association
Bernal	Paul	Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Clara County
Burdick	Chris	Executive Director & General Counsel, Santa Clara County Bar Association
Carr	Dolores	District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, Santa Clara County
Chavez	Cindy	Executive Officer, South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council Executive Director, Working Partnerships, USA
Chung	AnnaLisa M.	Executive Director, Dependency Advocacy Center
Coto	Joe	Assemblymember, CA State Assembly - District 23
Ekern	Bill	Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency (for Mayor Chuck Reed)
Ferrer	Frederick	Chief Executive Officer, Health Trust of Silicon Valley
Gallagher	Catherine A.	Judge of the Superior Court (Ret.), Santa Clara County
Graves	Gary	Acting County Executive, Office of the County Executive, Santa Clara County
Greenwood	Mary	Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, Santa Clara County
Grove	Vickie	Executive Director, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
Guardino	Carl	President and Chief Executive Officer, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Jacobs-May	Jamie	Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Clara County
Kelleher	Jennifer	Directing Attorney, LACY - Legal Advocates for Children and Youth
Knies	Scott	Executive Director, San Jose Downtown Association
Kniss	Liz	President, Board of Supervisors, District 5, Santa Clara County
Liccardo	Sam	Councilmember, San Jose City Council - District 3
Lightbourne	Will	Director, Social Services Agency, Santa Clara County
Lofgren	Zoe	Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives 16th District of California
Loftus	Richard	Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Clara County
Mitchell	Sheila	Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department, Santa Clara County
Nguyen	Mike	Congressional Aide, U.S. House of Representatives 15th District of California (for Congressman Mike Honda)
Penning	Lee	President, Park Townsend Homeowners Association
Rothenberg	Rona	Senior Manager, Design & Construction Services, Office of Court Construction & Management, Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts – PAG Chair
Ruiz	Jesse	President, Robinson and Wood, Inc.
Schoennauer	Erik	Chamber Member, San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Shirakawa	George	Supervisor, Board of Supervisors, District 2, Santa Clara County
Smith	Jolene	Executive Director, FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County
Smith	Laurie	Sheriff, Office of the Sheriff, Santa Clara County
Struthers	Neil	Chief Executive Officer, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council
Yamasaki	David	Chief Executive Officer, Superior Court, Santa Clara County
Zetterquist	Jim	Board Member, Preservation Action Council of San Jose