



NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, Celebrates Courthouse Groundbreaking

Innovative Facility to Accommodate Court, Community Growth

Fresno—The Court of Appeal for the Fifth Appellate District will inaugurate construction of a new courthouse at a groundbreaking ceremony on January 5, 2006, at 10:30 a.m., at 2424 Ventura Street in Fresno, California.

California Chief Justice Ronald M. George will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Fresno Mayor Alan Autry will also speak at the event, which will be hosted by Administrative Presiding Justice James A. Ardaiz on behalf of the Court of Appeal.

“The new building will allow the court to better serve the Central Valley,” said Justice Ardaiz. “Booming regional growth means that more people require the court’s services. This courthouse will allow us to accommodate their needs while exemplifying the highest design and construction standards.”

The groundbreaking culminates more than eight years of planning and design to develop a building that reflects the judicial branch’s values of openness, accessibility, and efficiency. The extensive use of glass in the three-story 61,000 square-foot building will permit the public to see inside the courthouse and allow the building to exceed state energy requirements by 17 percent.

The courthouse will contain a single courtroom. It will also include chambers for current and future justices; offices for attorneys, clerks, and administrative staff; a library, conference rooms; and secured surface parking. The facility was designed by AC Martin Partners, Inc.

The facility will be the last appellate court building to be built by the Department of General Services. In accordance with the Trial Court

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Facilities Act of 2002, the Administrative Office of the Courts will have responsibility for the building's operations and maintenance upon completion.

The completion of the court facility is anticipated for spring 2007. Updated information on this project may be found at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/5dca.htm> .

News media interested in attending the groundbreaking should contact Janice Owen at the Court of Appeal, 559-445-5104.

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