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AOC Teams Up With Superior Courts to Offer Complimentary Wireless Internet Access

Free Wi-Fi Access Provides Additional Services for Jurors and Other Court Users

San Francisco—A pilot program by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to implement complimentary wireless (Wi-Fi) networking in jury assembly areas in four superior courts was expanded in 2008 to include 18 superior courts throughout the state, bringing increased public access to court information and services through the use of information technology.

Wi-Fi access is helping to make jury waiting rooms more user-friendly for those who want to use the Internet or other electronic devices. With a Wi-Fi network, members of the public, prospective jurors, attorneys, and law enforcement agencies may access the Internet, check e-mail, download files for court, and view court Web sites.

Courts can also use Wi-Fi for other services, such as self-service stations or kiosks to help speed visitors through lines when courts are experiencing high levels of customer traffic. For historic court buildings, cabling is not permitted or practical; Wi-Fi connectivity provides a solution.

When visitors launch their Internet browser in the court where Wi-Fi is available, the computer detects a wireless connection and the court Web page pops up with a welcome message. The court pages also provide the basic rules and regulations for Wi-Fi use in the courts. This service is free to all court users.

The AOC invited the superior courts to participate in this voluntary project and selected courts on a first-come, first-served basis. The 18 participating courts are in the following counties: Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Imperial, Kings, Monterey, Placer, Riverside, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. The Superior Court of Alameda will offer Wi-Fi connection in February 2009; the Superior Court of Napa begins Wi-Fi installation in February and will offer this service in April 2009. Wi-Fi connectivity may vary from court to court.

The \$1.6 million project is funded by the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

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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.