



NEWS RELEASE NR 85-09
Contact: Philip R. Carrizosa, 415-865-8044

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 29, 2009

Last Court Facility Transfers to State

Unanimous Vote by Glenn County Supervisors Shifts the 532nd Facility

San Francisco—The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) today accepted the transfer of the Glenn County Superior Courthouse following a unanimous vote by the county board of supervisors. The Glenn historic courthouse, at 526 West Sycamore Street in Willows, is the last of 532 courthouses and other court facilities to transfer from the counties to become the responsibility of the state judicial branch. The Judicial Council of California is now responsible for all court facilities statewide.

This historic transfer completes a process set in motion by the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, the landmark legislation that envisioned a single, comprehensive infrastructure program for court facilities statewide as a final step in the unification of California's trial courts. The law authorized transfer of responsibility for all court facilities from California's 58 counties to the state.

"The transfer of the last court facility marks a significant milestone in the Judicial Council's effort to establish the judiciary as a separate and equal branch of state government," said Chief Justice Ronald M. George. "This transfer completes a long-standing goal for our state. I thank every county and the many men and women who worked so hard to achieve this objective."

After the transfer of each facility, the Judicial Council assumes full responsibility for the building, with ongoing input from county representatives. In many cases, these transfers have involved full transfer of title for the property. However, there have been many variations and complexities in the individual agreements, as these buildings are often shared-use facilities with the counties.

"Today's transfer of the Glenn County Superior Courthouse caps a remarkable, multiyear achievement, which required significant resources and dedication on the part of local courts, counties, and the Judicial Council," said Paul McIntosh, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties. "All who have been involved in the court facility transfer process over the last seven years are deserving of a significant commendation and should be recognized for their part in executing a historic effort aimed at improving the administration of justice in California."

Much work has already been done to improve the state's courthouses, and the facility in Glenn County is slated for improvements under Senate Bill 1407. This legislation, passed in 2008, provides up to \$5 billion in state funding for new courthouse construction and renovation. Among the 41 projects approved by the Judicial Council to use SB 1407 funding is a \$32 million proposed renovation and addition to the Glenn historic courthouse. The AOC plans to secure funding authorization for that project in early 2010.

The transfers benefit all Californians by ensuring equal access to safe, secure, and adequate court facilities, many of which are in a state of disrepair. By sharing knowledge and resources from all 58

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California counties, the AOC will use the state's large-scale purchasing power to create greater efficiencies and cost savings. The transfers will also ease the financial burden on the counties, which will no longer have to provide facilities for state court operations.

More information:

Transfers fact sheet (August 2009):

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/factsheets/factrans.pdf

List of completed transfer agreements:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/transfers_to_date.pdf

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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.