



MEDIA ADVISORY OC 27-10
Contact: Teresa Ruano, 415-865-7447

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2010

Grand Opening Ceremony Planned for Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse

Portola—Community members will celebrate completion of the first multijurisdictional courthouse in California, the new Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse, on June 10, 2010, in Portola. The building allows for resource sharing between the Superior Courts of Plumas and Sierra Counties and will minimize travel for court users in this area.

The program for the ceremony, 12–1 p.m., includes remarks by both presiding judges of the courts who share the facility: Presiding Judge Ira R. Kaufman, Superior Court of Plumas County, and Presiding Judge William W. Pangman, Superior Court of Sierra County. Also speaking will be Mayor John Larrieu, City of Portola, and David Goicoechea, Chairperson of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

The building is the first trial courthouse completed from start to finish by the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Accordingly, speakers will also include Ronald G. Overholt, the AOC Chief Deputy Director, and Jody Patel, Regional Administrative Director of the AOC Northern/Central Regional Office. Tours of the new courthouse for invited guests and the media will follow the ceremony.

The new courthouse, at 600 South Gulling Street, replaces a deficient part-time courthouse in Portola and a leased court service center in Loyalton. The building features a prominent entry vestibule, a tall clerestoried lobby that brings in views and light, and a spacious and carefully designed wood-paneled courtroom. The building was designed so that local materials and labor could be used during construction. The design is informed by regional architecture and materials while simultaneously expressing the dignity of the building's function as a seat of justice.

The project was completed on budget and eight months ahead of its original schedule. Planning started in 2006; construction began in October 2008 and was completed in November 2009. For more information and images, please visit:

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

Members of the media wishing to attend the event should contact Deborah Norrie, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Plumas County, at 530-283-6016. **Note:** *Because of space limitations, the dedication is not open to the public, but only to invited guests and the news media.*

###

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.