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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Chief Justice Ronald M. George to Speak at Grand Opening of New Courthouse in Pittsburg**

**Who:** Chief Justice Ronald M. George will speak at a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Richard E. Arnason Justice Center in downtown Pittsburg. Other speakers will include Presiding Judge Mary Ann O'Malley, Pittsburg Mayor Salvatore Evola, and Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey.

**When:** November 12, 2010, 2–5 p.m.

**What:** The grand opening program will include remarks and the unveiling of a dedication plaque. A tour of the new courthouse will follow.

**Where:** 1000 Center Drive, Pittsburg, California 94565

**Why:** The Richard E. Arnason Justice Center will open to the public on Monday, November 15, 2010. It replaces the significantly overcrowded Pittsburg-Delta Courthouse, originally constructed in 1952. The new seven-courtroom, full-service courthouse will enable the Superior Court of Contra Costa County to greatly improve access to justice for East County residents. It will be the first courthouse built by the state Administrative Office of the Courts designed to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. It is also the first courthouse in California completely funded by the state through court user fees and assessments, without reliance on the state's General Fund. Construction began in April 2009 and was completed on schedule and on budget. The new building is named in honor of Richard E. Arnason, distinguished jurist and pioneering member of the bar in Eastern Contra Costa County, whose leadership spans more than 60 years. Officially retired in 1995, Judge Arnason has continued to serve as an appointed judge on many important cases.

More information about the project:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_contracosta.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_contracosta.htm)

Members of the media wishing to attend the dedication or arrange for a tour may contact Mimi Lyster, Public Information Officer, Superior Court of Contra Costa County, at 925-957-5663 or [mediainfo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov](mailto:mediainfo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov).

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