



**Superior Court of California
County of Mendocino**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT
CODE 68106**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 21, 2011

**NOTICE OF CALENDARING CHANGES TO COVELO AND
POINT ARENA COURTS
Effective April 1, 2011**

The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino has changed its calendar schedule for the Covelo and Point Arena Courts from one time per month to one time every other month, odd numbered months only for each location. The change becomes effective April 1, 2011.

- **Covelo Calendar** – Matters will only be heard on the fourth Friday of each odd numbered month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 76270 Grange Street; Covelo, CA 95428.
 - 9:30 a.m. Criminal Arraignments and Calendar Matters
 - 10:30 a.m. Traffic and Infraction Arraignments, Calendar Matters and Court Trials
 - 10:30 a.m. Limited Civil and Small Claims
- **Point Arena Calendar** – Matters will only be heard on the third Thursday of each odd numbered month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at the VFW Building; 24000 S. Hwy. One; Point Arena, CA 95468
 - 9:00 a.m. Traffic and Infraction Arraignments and Calendar Matters
 - 9:30 a.m. Criminal Misdemeanor Arraignments
 - 11:00 a.m. Limited Civil, Small Claims and Ex Parte Hearings

These changes are necessary due to the Superior Court's current financial crisis and a decline in hearings for the Covelo and Point Arena Courts. In Fiscal Year 2009-2010 the Court's base allocation was reduced by \$622,706.00 and in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 it was reduced by \$317,680.00. In response to this reduction in funding, the Court instituted a hiring freeze in 2008, and has done away with virtually all positions vacated by retirement and separation. In addition, the Court has eliminated four management positions and one clerical position, resulting in approximately an 18% decrease in court staff. Covelo hearings have declined approximately 26.5% since 2008 and Point Arena hearings have declined approximately 47% since 2008. The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino is committed to ensuring open access to a system of unified and equal justice for all. All state trial courts are required to manage their budgets in response to funding conditions and in compliance with the Judicial Council's guiding principle of maintaining open access to courts. Reducing the Covelo and Point Arena Court calendars to one time every other month will help control staffing costs with minimum inconvenience to the public. Neither affected location currently has a Clerk's Office. Filings and related clerk's office functions will continue to be handled for Covelo at the Ukiah Courthouse and for Point Arena at the Ten Mile Branch Court in Fort Bragg. The Clerk's Office hours in Fort Bragg and Ukiah remain 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.