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Architects Selected for Two Los Angeles Courthouse Projects

SAN FRANCISCO— Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects and Moore Ruble Yudell Architects have been selected to design courthouse projects being planned in Glendale and Santa Clarita, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today.

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (ZGF) was selected for the proposed project in Glendale, which will provide a new eight-courtroom building to replace the Glendale Courthouse, which serves Glendale and ten other North Central communities. The current courthouse, built in 1953, is significantly undersized and has numerous security problems as well as physical, functional, and accessibility deficiencies.

Portland-based ZGF, in business for more than 60 years, has had a California presence for over a decade and has designed numerous buildings here, including government offices, university buildings, and healthcare facilities. The award-winning Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Santa Ana is one of the firm's signature projects. The firm, recently ranked 7th in the nation by *ARCHITECT* magazine, brings extensive experience in both sustainable design and master planning to the project. ZGF is already working with the AOC on the Santa Clara Family Justice Center in San Jose.

Moore Ruble Yudell was selected for the proposed courthouse in Santa Clarita, which will replace the court's space in the current Santa Clarita Courthouse and Annex with a new four-courtroom building. Both current buildings, shared with the County, are overcrowded and have numerous deficiencies in security, functionality, and accessibility.

Santa Monica-based Moore Ruble Yudell has more than 30 years experience, including many notable civic and cultural buildings not only in California, but also nationally and internationally. Recipient of the American Institute of Architect's prestigious Architecture Firm Award in 2006, the firm's award-winning work includes a new public library and parking structure in Santa Monica, the Center for the Arts in Escondido, and the new federal courthouse in Fresno.

Both of the planned Los Angeles courthouse projects were ranked as "immediate need" in the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan making them among the highest priority trial court construction projects for the branch. The projects are currently in site selection. The court, AOC, and project advisory groups that include members of the local community are reviewing potential sites. Once fully engaged, the architecture teams can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until sites are selected and acquisitions approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition typically take a year or more.

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Both projects are among 41 funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, penalties, assessments without reliance on the state's General Fund.

More information about the Glendale project is at:

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

More information about the Santa Clarita project is at:

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

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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.