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**NEWS RELEASE** NR 60-09

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2009

## **Architect Selected for Renovation of Old Solano Courthouse**

San Francisco—The architecture firm of Hornberger + Worstell has been selected for the renovation of the historic Old Solano Courthouse in Fairfield, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The courthouse, designed by E.C. Hemmings, is an outstanding example of Beaux Arts architecture expressed in a civic building. The 1911 building served as a functioning courthouse until the 1970s. It became vacant in 2005, when the County moved to its new government center. The proposed project, which is in its initial phases, will restore this beautiful, historic building to use as a fully functioning courthouse, providing three courtrooms for civil cases.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$26.9 million, was ranked as an “Immediate Need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects.

“We are very pleased with this selection of an architecture firm that brings deep respect for and expertise in the renovation of historic structures,” said Presiding Judge Ramona Joyce Garrett, Superior Court of Solano County. “This project is not only critically needed by our court, but it will also be an important addition to Fairfield's civic community and an infrastructure effort that will provide economic benefits for years to come. This expertise will help us ensure that we get it right.”

The County and the AOC are negotiating terms of the County's donation of the historic courthouse to the state. State approval of the site acquisition arrangement is expected early next year. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming, with preliminary plans to follow. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2012.

Founded 25 years ago, the San Francisco-based architecture firm of Hornberger + Worstell has a broad range of experience for clients in education, recreation, mixed-use/commercial development, and urban planning. Known for its expertise in historic restoration and adaptive reuse, the firm was recently selected to rehabilitate and upgrade the world-famous Ahwanee Hotel in Yosemite. Other historic restoration clients have included San Francisco's Olympic Club, Ghirardelli Square, and San Diego's Hotel Del Coronado.

The renovation of the Old Solano Courthouse is among the first of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties. More information about the project is at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_solano.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_solano.htm)

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