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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Architect Selected for New Ukiah Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—The award-winning global architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) has been selected to design the new Ukiah Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will provide a new nine-courtroom facility, replacing two unsafe, overcrowded, and physically deficient court facilities: the old Mendocino Courthouse, which dates to the 1950s, and the Willits branch, which was closed at the end of 2009.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$119.9 million, was ranked as a “critical need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it one of the highest-priority trial court construction projects for the judicial branch.

“The Court is thrilled that SOM has accepted the challenge of creating a beautiful, functional, and environmentally sound courthouse that will enhance the community and serve the citizens of Mendocino County for the next 50 to 100 years,” said Cindee Mayfield, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Mendocino County.

The new Ukiah courthouse project is currently in the earliest stages of site selection. The local court, AOC, and a project advisory group that includes members of the local community will review a list of proposed sites. Once fully engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until a site is selected and acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition typically take a year or more. The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill is one of the world’s leading architecture, interior design, engineering, and urban planning firms. In April 2010, the firm was ranked as the number one architectural firm in the nation by *ARCHITECT* magazine, which recognized SOM’s high premium on “ecological commitment and design quality.” Among its award-winning projects, SOM has designed the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, the master plan and major buildings on the University of California, Merced campus, and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. The firm is already working with the AOC on major courthouse projects in San Bernardino, currently in working drawings, and in San Diego.

The new Ukiah courthouse is among 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, penalties, and assessments, without reliance on the state’s General Fund.

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More information about the project is at:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_ukiah.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_ukiah.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.*