



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF NAPA

Richard D. Feldstein
Court Executive Officer

825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 299-1110

September 25, 2014

The Honorable Steven Jahr (Ret.)
Administrative Director
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Judge Jahr:

In accordance with Government Code sections 68106 and 68108, the Napa Superior Court currently closes its courthouses at 2:30 p.m. on Friday of each week. At this time, the court plans on adding court closure days on Wednesday, November 26, 2014, Friday December 26, 2014, and Friday, January 2, 2015. On these three days, the court will be closed all day and reopen the following Monday. As such, and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with our represented employees, all staff will continue to be furloughed each Friday at 2:30 p.m. and the three full-day closures listed above. These actions are being taken in an effort to reduce court operations expenditures in response to the continuing effects of multiple years of court budget reductions that have yet to be restored by the State of California.

The court deeply regrets having to continue to take such actions and only does so after exhausting all other alternatives to cope with multiple years of the statewide reductions to trial court funding. Since the beginning of the economic downturn in fiscal year 2008/2009, the court has implemented multiple floating staff furlough days, hiring freezes, employee layoffs, and a reduced work week of 37.5 hours. In addition, it has reduced all supply and services expenditures to the bare minimum necessary to continue to operate. However, the state's failure to provide substantial financial relief from years of unprecedented budget reductions has necessitated these actions in order to continue to provide the most basic judicial services while continuing to function within our dramatically decreased funding level.

Please be assured that the court has chosen this course of action only after engaging in significant analysis and debate. Furthermore, we will continue to work closely with our local bar association and justice partners to take all reasonable actions necessary to

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lessen the impact of any such decisions on the community we serve. We sincerely hope that a statewide economic recovery will soon lead to a reversal of these necessary measures.

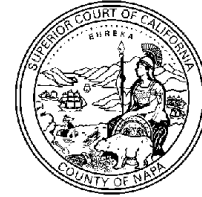
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Feldstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard D. Feldstein
Court Executive Officer

rdf/crb

cc: The Honorable Rodney S. Stone, Presiding Judge
The Honorable Mark Boessenecker, Assistant Presiding Judge
Jody Patel, Chief of Staff, Judicial Council of California



MEMORANDUM

To: Local Justice Agency Partners
Members of the Public
Members of the Napa County Bar Association
All Other Interested Parties

From: Rick Feldstein, Court Executive Officer

Date: September 26, 2014

Subject: Continuation of Friday 2:30 pm Court Closure
Court Closure days for fiscal year 2014/2015

As you know, the state financial crisis has resulted in severe trial court budget reductions throughout the state over the past six years. In addition to closing every Friday at 2:30 p.m., as well as Christmas and New Year's Eve in 2012 and 2013, the court has absorbed these reductions with the cooperation of its employees through measures such as furloughs, layoffs, elimination of prior agreed upon cost of living increases, hiring freezes, and all other reasonable efforts to control labor, supply, and contractual service costs.

With the economy improving in the state, the trial courts had hoped that there would be a significant restoration of trial court funding by this time. However, the state's failure to provide substantial financial relief from years of unprecedented budget reductions, and the elimination of the court's fund balance carry-over, has necessitated these actions in order to continue to provide the most basic judicial services while continuing to function within our dramatically decreased funding level.

As a result, the court will continue to close at 2:30 p.m. on each Friday. In addition, the court plans to be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday, November 26, 2014
- Friday, December 26, 2014
- Friday, January 2, 2015

The court regrets having to continue this action and appreciates your understanding and cooperation. The continuation of the Friday schedule and the additional closure days is only now being taken after a great deal of consideration of its impact on our local community. The court believes, however, that this measure is unavoidable and necessary to maintain sound fiscal management during the current and extremely difficult budgetary situation. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (707) 299-1111 or rick.feldstein@napa.courts.ca.gov.