

The Superior Court OF THE State of California SAN DIEGO

Mailing Address Post Office Box 122724 San Diego, California 92112-2724

October 21, 2014

Martin Hoshino Administrative Director Judicial Council of California 455 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Subject:

Notice of Intent of Closure of Business Offices / Transfer of

Operations

Dear Mr. Hoshino:

Due to the severe and ongoing reductions imposed on the California judicial branch, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will be consolidating its appellate operations by closing the appellate desk/operations of its business offices in its North, South and East County Divisions for certain case filings. All Civil appeals, all Family appeals, and all East and South County Division Criminal appeals (excluding North County Criminal Appeals) will be transferred to the Central Division; all filings in these cases will need to be filed at the Central Division. "Criminal" is defined as traffic/infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies. This change is being made effective January 5, 2015.

Further, Small Claims operations at the Central Division Kearny Mesa Courthouse will be transferred to the Civil Business Office in the Hall of Justice. Effective December 22, 2014, the Small Claims business office at the Kearny Mesa Courthouse will be closed and all Small Claims filings, including filings for Small Claims appeals, will need to be filed at the Central Division Civil Business Office in the Hall of Justice. All Small Claims hearings/trials will be transferred to the Central Courthouse beginning January 5, 2015.

The San Diego Superior Court budget has been reduced by \$42 million since 2007-08. We are projecting another \$6 million gap between revenues and expenses

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in FY 2014-15 and another \$3 million reduction in FY 2015-16 due to the impact of implementation of the Workload Allocation Funding Model (WAFM) and the failure of the State to fund local retirement and health benefits costs. To address these cuts, we have previously reduced business operating hours, reduced staff through attrition and a voluntary separation program, reduced our operating and technology expenses and implemented other wage and benefit reductions to limit the impact of our budget cuts on public access to our courts. However, with the latest round of cuts in the 2014-15 budget, we can no longer continue to operate without additional significant and permanent changes in our operations.

Pursuant to Government Code § 68106, this Court has solicited public comment in writing regarding this plan via the attached notice. A copy of this notice will be posted throughout our facilities and on our court website (www.sdcourt.ca.gov), at least 60 days prior to the effective date of each change

We are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding these most unfortunate, but necessary actions that will erode the public's access to our San Diego court system.

Sincerely,

Presiding Judge

MICHAEL RODDY **Executive Officer**



Superior Court of California County of San Diego

CENTRAL COURTHOUSE 220 WEST BROADWAY PO BOX 122724 SAN DIEGO CA 92112-2724

October 21, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF BUSINESS OFFICES/ TRANSFER OF OPERATIONS

Pursuant to Government Code § 68106 and Rule 10.620 of the California Rules of Court, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice that it will be: (1) consolidating its appellate filings by closing the appellate desk/operations of its business offices in its North, South and East County Divisions for certain case filings and transferring them to the Central Division; and (2) closing its Small Claims business office in the Kearny Mesa Courthouse and transferring all Small Claims operations and hearings/trials from the Kearny Mesa Courthouse to the Hall of Justice and Central Courthouse.

Effective December 22, 2014, the Small Claims business office at the Kearny Mesa Courthouse will be closed and that courthouse will no longer accept any Small Claims filings, including filings for Small Claims appeals; such filings must be made in the Civil Business Office at the Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, Room 241, San Diego, CA 92101. Effective January 5, 2015, all Small Claims hearings/trials will be transferred from the Kearny Mesa Courthouse and will take place in Department 22 of the Central Courthouse. No changes are being made to filings and hearings in the North County Division.

Effective January 5, 2015: all Civil appeals, all Family appeals, and all East and South County Division Criminal appeals (excluding North County Criminal appeals) will be transferred to the Central Division, and all filings related to such appeals shall be made in the Central Division, at 220 West Broadway, Room 3005, San Diego, CA 92101. "Criminal" is defined as traffic/infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies. No changes are being made to Juvenile appeals filings.

This Court finds the above actions are necessary due to the severe and ongoing cuts to the state judicial branch budget. Since 2009, state funding for the judicial branch has been significantly reduced, with those reductions impacting the budgets of individual superior courts. The Court estimates that it faces a \$9 million cut in funding for FY 2014-2015 and FY 2015-2016. These



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cuts are in addition to some \$42 million in reductions incurred during the preceding five fiscal years. As a result, the Court must further reduce the services it provides to bring expenditures in line with funding.

The Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov (click on "Invitation to Comment"). For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to: Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, 220 W. Broadway, Executive Office, San Diego, CA 92101, attention Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer.

MICHAEL M. RODDY

Executive Officer

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