



**Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
René C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612**

October 13, 2005

Press Release

For Immediate Release

**ARTHUR A. SIMS TO RETIRE AS COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

Oakland, California: Barbara J. Miller, Presiding Judge announces the retirement of Arthur A. Sims, Court Executive Officer, effective in December 2005.

Judge Miller noted that he "will be deeply missed by the judges, commissioners and staff of the Court. He has consistently demonstrated the ability to successfully develop and apply sound solutions to complex court business problems and promote excellence in the administration of and access to justice. He is a consummate dedicated professional and is highly valued by the judges, commissioners and court staff for his knowledge, strategic thinking, dedication and assistance."

Mr. Sims stated, "My tenure with the Court has been both challenging and rewarding. I have truly appreciated the strong direction and support of the judges, and the professional and superlative assistance of my coworkers most. I am proud and honored to have served as Executive Officer of this court."

Selected as the Court Executive Officer in September 2000, Mr. Sims' responsibility spanned the non-judicial service and staff functions of a court organization consisting of 85 judges and commissioners and over 800 employees, who provide court service in 16 locations in Alameda County.

Mr. Sims led the executive management team in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. Knowledgeable in all aspects of administration of non-judicial staff functions, he is key executive staff to the many judicial policy committees in the Court.

Mr. Sims played a major leadership role in support of the judiciary, the staff and the public in the evolution and business practice re-engineering of the court. His chief goal was to enhance the provision of quality court services to the residents of Alameda County. He believed this could best be accomplished by the collaboration of the Court, court staff, and the appropriate use of technology. Highlights of some of his achievements in this regard include:

- The Unlawful Detainer Trial Delay Reduction Program of 2001 as a means to promote the timely resolution of unlawful detainer actions within statutory time limits;
- The expansion of DomainWeb in 2001 to provide electronic images for all civil and complex litigation cases so that the public can view and/or print civil case files from their homes or offices;

- Presiding over the 2002-2005 remodel and seismic retrofit of the Berkeley Courthouse;
- In 2003, the establishment of Self-Help Centers at the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse and the Fremont Hall of Justice to assist self-represented litigants with legal issues via telephone, email, or in person. In addition, weekly clinics were set up at the Hayward Hall of Justice and services were recently expanded to include evening Family Law clinics during the week at the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse. Since its inception, more than 10,000 self-represented litigants have received assistance;
- In 2003, the introduction of 24 hour a day telephone and web access for those summoned to jury duty so that at any time, day or night, jurors have the ability to confirm their jury information, reschedule their jury service, or obtain work certification documentation that can be provided to employers as needed. The Interactive Voice Response and Interactive Web Response systems provide a convenient and direct method for jurors to obtain information about their jury service and to effectively communicate with the Jury Commissioner's Office;
- The implementation of universal filing and facsimile filing in July 2003 which broadened and facilitated access to the courts;
- In 2004, the opening of the court's first children's waiting room located at the Hayward Hall of Justice;
- And, in 2005, culminating a two-year effort led by a team of judicial officers, court staff, and the Office of Information Technology, all domestic violence, civil harassment, and elder abuse restraining and protective orders issued in Alameda County are now automatically and instantaneously transmitted to local and statewide law enforcement officials for immediate enforceability and protection. These orders are digitally scanned, registered, and disseminated by court staff through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS).

Mr. Sims is universally viewed as a highly respected and extremely successful court executive. He served as an advisory member of the Judicial Council of California, Chair of the Judicial Council Court Executive's Advisory Committee and is past President of the California Association for Superior Court Administration. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Court Management, the largest association of court management professionals in the world.

Prior to serving at this court, he was the Executive Officer of the unified Superior Court of California, County of Riverside. In addition, Mr. Sims held the positions of Executive Officer of the former Riverside Municipal Court and the pre-unified Riverside Superior Court and played a key role in the unification of the trial courts in Riverside County.

Mr. Sims has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California, with a specialty in Judicial Administration.

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