

**Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



Wynne S. Carvill, Presiding Judge

Chad Finke, Executive Officer

René C. Davidson Courthouse

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of Alameda County's first dedicated civil Domestic Violence department will open on June 4, 2018, in the Hayward Hall of Justice.

The Superior Court of Alameda County is pleased to announce the creation of the Court's first dedicated Domestic Violence department. Slated to open on June 4, 2018, in Department 502 of the Hayward Hall of Justice, the new department will handle all initial civil domestic violence restraining order filings countywide. In addition to daily domestic violence hearings, the new department will also have specialized calendars for monitoring gun collection and progress reports to assess litigants' progress with civilly ordered domestic violence and anger management classes.

Presently, civil domestic violence filings are divided between the Court's Family Law and General Civil departments. By consolidating all new civil domestic violence petitions into a single department, the Court will provide the public with continuity of review and decision making, as well as enhanced access to a wide range of services, some of which were previously unavailable through the Court. The Court appreciates the assistance of the staff of its Self-Help Center/Family Law Facilitator's Office and Family Court Services unit, as well as assigned domestic violence specialists and stakeholders throughout Alameda County, which made this consolidation possible.

Hon. Victor Rodriguez, who is currently assigned to Department 515, will preside over the new department. Judge Rodriguez enthusiastically volunteered to accept this new assignment, and the Court is confident that his demeanor and dedication to the project will be instrumental in making this new department a success. Hon. Nikki Clark will take Judge Rodriguez's prior assignment in Department 515.

Please note that in order to facilitate the reopening of Department 502, the Self-Help workshops that are presently held in that department will be relocated to Room 103 in the Hayward Hall of Justice, which the Court is refurbishing for that purpose.