

For Immediate Release

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New Filing Services

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The Executive Officer of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, Arthur Sims, announces two new services for individuals filing documents with the court in Alameda County, both effective on July 1, 2003. First, as of this date, cases may be filed at any Alameda County Court location regardless of venue. Second, the Superior Court will accept Civil, Probate, and Family Law filings via facsimile pursuant to *Local Rule of Court 1.8* and *California Rules of Court 2005-2008*.

The first program, dubbed “universal filing” by the court, enables attorneys and the public to file documents at any one of the seven court locations most convenient to them regardless of where the case will be heard by a judge. The court anticipates that by making it easier to access services that the recent reduction in court business hours, undertaken because of the state budget crisis, can be offset. This model program should save customers time and money while adding convenience and value.

The second service, Facsimile filing, will allow greater access to the court by using existing technology and resources. Faxed documents will be received directly into the court’s computer, processed, and entered into the Case Management System. Documents will then be available online, through the court’s website if permitted by law, or conformed copies will be faxed or e-mailed to the filing parties. The required filing fees, and fax filing surcharge of \$1.00 per page, may be paid by credit card.

The court is hopeful that in addition to increasing overall access to justice, these programs will also result in better customer service through a more efficient and productive use of court resources. Arthur Sims, Executive Officer of Superior Court, stressed that the implementation of these services are a testament to the commitment of both judges and staff to making the Alameda County Court maximally accessible to the public. “In spite of our fiscal challenges, the judges, with strong staff support, have steadfastly insisted that we continually evaluate ways of minimizing the impact of staff reductions and shortened hours on the public. We feel that these services will accomplish that.”