



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

December 19, 2005

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Court Extends Protection Against Abuse of Seniors

Oakland: Beginning in January 2006, all felony elder and dependent adult abuse cases occurring in Alameda County can be heard in a special department of the Superior Court in Oakland. Presiding Judge -elect George C. Hernandez has created a specialized court for felony prosecution of defendants under Penal Code section 368, which includes physical, mental and financial abuse, as well as neglect cases. Judge Julie Conger will preside over this department as an extension of her acclaimed Elder Protection Court, which is devoted to civil remedies for elders. Judge Hernandez noted, "The issue of felony elder abuse merits immediate attention and requires the commitment of the court's resources." Coordinating civil and criminal elder abuse cases in a single department is thought to be the first of its kind and will provide higher levels of assistance and support to elderly victims and their families.

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