



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego Superior Court Begins Imaging and E-Filing Projects

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is taking another step forward in the use of its state-developed civil, small claims and probate case management system (known as V3.) The court is in the process of building a program to gradually move specific court operations to a paper-on-demand system.

In the first phase of the current project, a team of information technology specialists, civil judges and civil operations staff are working together to design and develop a system where filed paper documents will be scanned and stored in the court's document management system. This imaging project will initially begin in Department 69 in the downtown San Diego Hall of Justice, the courtroom of Supervising Civil Judge Jeffrey B. Barton. The process will eventually be expanded to all civil, small claims and probate departments court-wide.

Beginning in August, all newly-initiated cases assigned to Department 69 will be scanned. With some exceptions, all documents associated with these cases will be imaged and available on computer for viewing by Judge Barton, court staff, and parties involved. Public documents related to the cases will also be available on-line to any interested party. Documents from the imaged cases will be retained in paper form for 90 days. All existing cases filed prior to the imaging start date will be maintained in hard copy.

(More)

“The San Diego Superior Court is embarking on a significant new effort to provide electronic access to civil court files. The project will greatly expand access to court files for both litigants and attorneys. By the time of the project’s completion, public court files will be fully accessible online and the system will support electronic filing of pleadings and other documents with the court. This increased access should save litigants and attorneys significant time and inconvenience by not requiring trips to the courthouse to review files or file documents,” says Judge Barton.

The second phase of the court project will implement e-filing, a process by which court users can submit cases electronically to the court. The e-filing project will also begin in Department 69.

Currently, the court is reviewing bids to contract for an e-filing service provider(s) to assist the court with the e-filing process. Once in place, individuals filing with the court will file directly with the chosen vendor(s).

Once all phases of the project are completed, the e-filing/imaging project will reduce costs for both the public and the court by eliminating the need for physically transporting documents to court, the need for court staff to manually enter data, and the need to store paper documents.

The court is working closely with local legal associations and organizations to disseminate updates on the projects and will have updated information available on the court website.

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