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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego Superior Court E-Filing System Moves Into A New Phase

Construction Defect Cases Must Be Filed Through One Legal Starting June 2, 2014

In its continuing effort to improve services to the public while increasing efficiencies and reducing costs, the San Diego Superior Court will move into a new phase of its e-filing system. Starting June 2, 2014, all Construction Defect cases must be directly filed with the Court's approved vendor: One Legal. This change is necessary to allow the filed documents and the information they contain to integrate directly with the Court's case management system, which is not possible with the current system.

With the onset of e-filing with One Legal, Court staff will no longer have to spend hundreds of hours manually inputting information from pleadings on Construction Defect cases. Some documents will require no clerk processing at all due to automated acceptance. This means that Register of Action (ROA) entries and the documents themselves will become more quickly available through the Court's website. E-service will also be available through One Legal.

"By having a program where cases are directly filed into our system, we are predicting a more than 40% reduction in Court processing time which means filings can be processed more quickly and litigants or other interested parties will have faster access to the filed documents both in our business office and online," said Mike Roddy the CEO of the San Diego Superior Court.

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Because of unprecedented and ongoing budget reductions suffered by the State Judicial Branch and the San Diego Superior Court's overall staff reductions of 27%, there is currently a processing delay in Civil filings. The Court predicts this e-filing change will allow the Court to reassign resources and begin to reduce its current backlog of filings.

"We had to make hard choices based on efficiencies and a service-focused outcome. We understand that this change can be difficult for some law firms that have filed a certain way. We are working hard to ensure the transition to the new e-filing system is as smooth as possible as we move forward with technology-based solutions due to our reduced staffing and antiquated systems," said Judge Jeffrey B. Barton the Assistant Presiding Judge.

To assist in the changeover process, One Legal is offering free training and California-based customer support. Those in need of assistance can contact One Legal. The Court and One Legal will be offering training on the e-filing process for interested parties in the lead up to the June 2, 2014 "go live" date. Parties will still be able to view documents filed through the previous vendor either through their subscription with that company or on the Public Access Terminal located in the Hall of Justice.

This latest change is just part of the San Diego Superior Court's efforts to implement efficiencies that will decrease costs while at the same time improve services to the public. "E-filing significantly reduces the amount of time clerks need to spend with documents through time consuming data entry and scanning work and it also eliminates our need to store paper documents in climate controlled storage areas. For Court users, benefits include not having to wait in line at Court or having to leave documents in drop boxes afterhours. With e-filing, users

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are able to file directly with the Court from the location of their choice ensuring all documents related to the filing arrive at the Court together,” indicates Judge Barton.

The e-filing program for construction defect cases begins on June 2, 2014.

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