



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Post Office Box 120128 • San Diego, CA 92112-0128

Release: Immediately
Date: December 15, 2005

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San Diego Superior Court Spearheads Second Effort To Help Hurricane Battered Mississippi Courts

After one successful trip delivering much needed supplies to damaged courts in Mississippi, a San Diego Superior Court judge is spearheading a second delivery of materials which will leave San Diego on December 17th.

In early November, Superior Court Judge William Pate personally drove a rental truck filled with "out of service" court furniture, filing cabinets, and supplies to the coastal areas of Mississippi. Judge Pate sought and received approval for the donation from California Superior Court officials after reading about the hurricane aftermath on the National Center for State Courts' website. Judge Pate, along with the Superior Court's Property Manager Chuck Freeman, delivered the materials after a two day cross country drive.

Judge Pate says the hurricane damage basically shut down the courts; adding more hardships to residents in the area, "Without chairs, tables, desks, copiers, file cabinets, courts cannot do their jobs of hearing and deciding the pressing issues of this region of Mississippi. All criminal matters, probate, marriage dissolution, personal injury and property damage claims, contractual disputes and claims involving insurance benefits usually require some court rulings or orders. Without courts in place these matters cannot be attended to in a prompt manner so that the parties may move forward."

(More)

Mississippi court officials told Judge Pate the San Diego donation was the first and only donation, other than Federal aid, they had received in the wake of Katrina. After witnessing the tremendous damage himself, Judge Pate decided to find more donations for the weather-beaten state judiciary system.

Upon his return, Judge Pate approached other agencies and organizations searching for more “out of service” items, several entities responded to his pleas including the 4th District Court of Appeal in San Diego and the County of San Diego.

On December 15, a semi truck will stop at various San Diego warehouses and will be loaded with donated materials. The truck is scheduled to depart for Mississippi on the 17th.

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