



# NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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## San Diego Superior Court Expands Imaging Project to South County Division

Starting Friday, June 1, 2012, the South County Division of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, will begin scanning newly-initiated civil cases. With some exceptions, all documents associated with civil cases, including unlawful detainers, name changes, and civil restraining orders (excluding small claims) will be scanned/imaged and available via computer for viewing by judges, court staff, and parties involved.

South County joins the Court's Central and East County Civil Divisions, which are now utilizing imaged documents and making them readily available to the public.

Public documents related to the cases will also be available on-line to any interested party. Those documents can be viewed free of charge on courthouse kiosks or, for a fee, can be viewed and printed off-site. The following South County courtrooms will begin imaging on June 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Department 7 Judge Kenneth J. Medel
- Department 2 As assigned
- Department 9 As assigned

Judge Stephanie Sontag, Supervising Judge of the South County Division, said, "We are happy to provide this service to our South County residents, who will now be able to view court

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filings without having to come to the courthouse and stand in line. Our goal is to make these records open and easily accessible to all those who wish to see them.”

Civil Supervising Judge Jeffrey B. Barton has overseen the court-wide project and adds, “The imaging project is the first step in a transition to electronic court files for civil and probate. We look forward to expanding the project to allow e-filing of documents with the court next year. Once that is accomplished in 2013, the public will have full remote access to both view files and file documents. This represents a step forward in greater accessibility for the public.”

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.

The imaging project began in the Court’s downtown courthouse (Central Division) in August of 2011 and will expand to all divisions throughout 2012.

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