



# News Release

## Superior Court of California

### County of San Francisco

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### **SAN FRANCISCO'S PRESIDING JUDGE REDUCES PENDING FELONY CASELOAD IN MARCH BY ASSIGNING MORE JUDGES TO HEAR CRIMINAL MATTERS**

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- The San Francisco Superior Court transferred 63 criminal cases from the Hall of Justice to the Civic Center Courthouse last month to reduce the inventory of criminal cases, allowing the Court to successfully dispose almost half (39) of 80 old cases targeted for resolution, Presiding Judge James J. McBride announced today.

Judge McBride transferred the most felony cases on record in a 30-day period, building on the Court's efforts to reduce the inventory of criminal cases at the Hall of Justice. Of the 63 criminal cases transferred to the Civic Center Courthouse (CCC) in March, 40 were felony cases. The transfer of criminal cases to the CCC created additional capacity for the resolution of old cases – some of which were as much as three years old.

"The Court took this concentrated approach to continue making a dent in the older pending felony caseload at the Hall of Justice," Judge McBride said. "Last month, the Court transferred a total of 63 criminal cases to the CCC – the highest number since January 2008."

Of the 63 cases, 40 were felonies and 23 were misdemeanors.

More than 71 percent of the criminal cases the Court transferred from the Hall of Justice to the CCC were set for trial.

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**SFSC/CRIMINAL CASES**  
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Criminal case transfers to CCC resulted in 15 felony trial dispositions – which tied a 3-year-old record. Of those 15 cases, eight resulted in convictions and five resulted in acquittals. One resulted in a hung jury. The last case was dismissed.

The success of the effort also was evident in a 10.6 percent decline last month in the number of active pending felony cases more than a year past the filing of the information. That one-month reduction represents the largest decline in the last 18 months.

In the past two years, the Court's Criminal Operations staff has worked closely with the Supervising Criminal Judge and other judges to improve the Court's processing of felony and misdemeanor cases. As a result, the Court has reduced the pending felony cases by one-third and misdemeanor cases by two-thirds. This progress was noted in a report earlier this year authored by John Greacen, of Greacen Associates LLC, and Fred Miller of the Administrative Office of the Court's Executive Office Programs. The report also noted that the Court needed to reduce the number of older pending criminal cases.

The Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, will continue its efforts to reduce pending criminal caseloads, including the transfer of criminal cases from the Hall of Justice to judges at the CCC, where judges typically handle the Court's civil matters.

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