



News Release

Superior Court of California

County of San Francisco

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT TO CLOSE ONE DAY PER MONTH BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court operations in four buildings will be closed one day per month, beginning September 16, Presiding Judge James J. McBride announced today.

The unprecedented state-mandated Court closures will save \$2.6 million in staff, janitorial and security costs. Under state law, all state Courts will be closed on the third Wednesday of the month between September 2009 and June 2010. The Court's 565 employees will not be paid for the 10 court closure days.

The closures of all Courts one day a month will save about \$94.3 million on a statewide basis. The Court closures are the result of \$414 million in budget cuts for the entire judicial branch.

"This is a sad day for California's Court system," said Judge James J. McBride. "But the relentless state budget cuts have undermined the Courts' ability to manage the fiscal crisis. We are left with no choice but to close our doors to the public and limit access to justice."

In addition to the closures, the Court also has a hiring, travel and spending freeze. In the past two fiscal years, the Court has been hit with a loss of \$18 million in state funds. However, with the help of a rainy day fund, the Court has managed to avoid layoffs and far-

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reaching reductions in services. The expectation is that there will be impacts on case management in both civil and criminal cases, but to what extent remains to be seen.

"The Court deserves credit for maintaining our operation as well as we have to this point," Judge McBride said. "But our ability to withstand another blow to our budget is made worse by the fact that our reserves are perilously low and we have trimmed expenses as much as we can without layoffs and service reductions to the public."

The Court will have a judicial officer on call for emergency matters, such as protective orders and search warrants. The court closure days will be treated as Court holidays for the purposes of scheduling hearings and calculating filing deadlines.

Courts in all of California's 58 counties will be closed the third Wednesday of each month between September 2009 through June 2010. These unprecedented mandatory closures are required by Government Code section 68106, which was approved by the Governor and the Legislature as part of the 2009-2010 Budget Act.

The state-mandated court closures are expected to save about \$94.3 million statewide.

In an effort to assure the public is aware of the closures that begin Wednesday, September 16, the Court has set up a **Court Closure Information Line: 415.551.5958**, which is recorded in English and Spanish. The Court also has information on its Web site at www.sfgov.org/courts.

On court closure days, the San Francisco Superior Court will be closed in these locations:

- **Civic Center Courthouse**
400 McAllister St.
- **Hall of Justice**
850 Bryant St.
(Other agencies will remain open in this location.)
- **Youth Guidance Center**
575 Polk St.
(Other agencies will remain open in this location.)
- **Polk Street Annex**
575 Polk St.
(ACCESS Self-Help Center and Community Justice Center court will be closed in this location. However, services at the CJC will be open at 555 Polk St.)

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