

NEWS RELEASE

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SF SUPERIOR COURT TO UNVEIL FIRST COURT-RUN E-FILING PORTAL TO ALLOW DIRECT E-FILING FOR ALL GENERAL CIVIL CASE TYPES

New System Expands Electronic Filing Choices Available by Dec. 8 Mandatory E-Filing Launch

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court will unveil a new Court-run e-filing portal on December 8, 2014 to assure the public has multiple choices to comply with an e-filing mandate for all General Civil case types, Court Executive Officer T. Michael Yuen announced today.

"The Court's e-filing portal will give parties a cost-effective option to file directly with the Court to comply with a General Civil e-filing mandate that takes effect December 8," Mr. Yuen said. "In addition to the Court's e-filing system, the public also may select one of four vendors to e-file cases. The San Francisco Superior Court is the first Court in California to offer its own e-filing portal to meet the requirements of California Rule of Court 2.253 (b)."

The Court's system, which will be available to any individual or company to utilize through a link on the Court's Web site (www.sfsuperiorcourt.org), will charge \$10.80 per transaction, in addition to a convenience fee. After its launch, the Court has plans to expand the system in 2015 to offer e-service.

The Court is complying with California Rule of Court 2.253 (b) with an e-filing system that offers multiple vendors. To augment its own e-filing service, the Court has selected third-party

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filers, in addition to File & ServeXpress, to provide litigants or attorneys with the ability to electronically submit subsequent filings in all General Civil case types. The vendors are Nationwide Legal File & Serve, Inc.; Freewheelin' Attorney Service; and NorCal Courier & Legal Services. File & ServeXpress also will continue to serve as the agent of the Clerk to collect statutory filing fees from filers who e-file through one of the vendors.

Training on the Court's new system and with all vendors will be available during a December 3 BASF CLE training attended by Presiding Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee and CEO Yuen. More details will be announced later today.

File & ServeXpress is providing free training to law firms on the e-filing system and services, and also will provide free technical support to third-party filers. For questions about available vendors and how to e-file in San Francisco, visit <http://info.fileandservexpress.com/san-francisco/welcome>. To sign up for training, visit <http://info.fileandservexpress.com/san-francisco/training>.

Nearly a year ago, the Court awarded a contract to authorize One Legal as an e-filing vendor to build an e-filing portal in an effort to comply with CRC 2.253 (b). However, the company did not meet the Court's January 2014 deadline to implement e-filing and has since informed the Court that it will not even begin building its system until January 2015. As a result, the Court was forced to delay its initial January 27, 2014 target date to expand mandatory e-filing. Rather than continue to wait for One Legal, the Court began working on parallel tracks to assure compliance with the rule. It also selected a second vendor, ISD Corp., to assure multiple vendors were available to help the Court achieve its goal of expanding mandatory e-filing to additional Civil case types in 2014. In addition, the Court selected three electronic filing service providers to offer choices to Court users. Those vendors may use the Court's existing vendor, File & ServeXpress, to e-file, or it may choose to use the Court's new portal.

"The San Francisco Superior Court is proud to offer direct e-filing to the public," Mr. Yuen said. "We have been focused on achieving our goal of reducing costs through an expansion of our e-filing mandate for Civil cases, and we have met our responsibility to comply with the requirements of the state e-filing rule. Mandatory e-filing is finally coming to San Francisco, which

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will make court operations more efficient and allow us to preserve vital court services.”

After the initial pleadings open the file, e-filing will be mandatory for all subsequent pleadings, except Limited Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims cases. Self-represented parties and “non-parties” may e-file, but will not be required to do so.

E-filing rules are contained in San Francisco Superior Court local rule 2.10.

The Civil e-filing expansion is a key element of the Court’s Electronic Information Management (EIM) project, managed by Civil Administrator Wayne Parinas and Court Manager Regina Dennis, and overseen by Presiding Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee and CEO Yuen. The project, which began in March 2013, is aligned to the Court’s strategic plan and aims to use technology to improve service to the public, save money and reduce paper use.

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