

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**September 23, 2011**

Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

**Effective January 3, 2012**

### **Reduction in Operating Hours- All Clerk's Offices**

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is providing 60 day notice of a reduction of hours for the public counters and telephones in the Clerk's Offices.

Effective **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**, the hours of the Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, shall be 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for traffic, civil, small claims, family law, criminal, juvenile, probate, appeals and records. Phone hours will be from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Walk-up Express Window at the main Ventura Courthouse for Criminal/Traffic and Collections' payments, however, will remain open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Drop boxes are currently provided outside each Clerk's Office for filing papers or submitting payments. Documents placed in the boxes by 5:00 p.m. are deemed deposited for filing that same business day.

The court has instituted various cost saving measures, including: unpaid employee furloughs, freezing vacancies, layoffs, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reduction of expenditures for services and supplies.

Staffing in the Clerk's Offices has been significantly impacted by unfilled vacancies and furloughs. A reduction in the Clerk's Office hours will help court staff to timely process cases and prepare court calendars.

The above actions are required to address the continued reduction in funding to the California court system. Since 2008, the Governor and Legislature have approved \$652 million in ongoing budget cuts to the judicial branch. For fiscal year 2011-12, \$2.7 million has been cut from the budget of the Ventura Superior Court. When added to prior reductions, the Ventura Superior Court faces a \$5.8 million deficit for 2011-12, along with the prospect of even deeper cuts in 2012-13.