



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Hall of Justice and Records**  
**400 County Center**  
**Redwood City, CA 94063**

**Hon. Mark R. Forcum**  
**Presiding Judge**

**Hon. George A. Miram**  
**Assistant Presiding Judge**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Redwood City, CA

**DATE:** December 27, 2004

**CONTACT:** Hon. Mark R. Forcum, Presiding Judge 650-363-7835

## **San Mateo Superior Court Becomes an E-Court**

Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum announced today San Mateo County Superior Court's e-court programs, which provides technical solutions to assist citizens with their legal issues. E-court allows the public to access court services over the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Court's website, located at [www.sanmateocourt.org](http://www.sanmateocourt.org), offers the following services:

- **E-delivery – electronic delivery of court forms** – Using EZLegalFile, San Mateo's award-winning program that guides people through the completion of legal forms, litigants can now send their filings to the Court over the Internet for acceptance. Once the Court accepts the filing, the user gets an endorsed copy. This ability to send files electronically reduces the need to drive to Court and stand in line to file documents. Currently, people can e-deliver their small claims, evictions, and family law forms. San Mateo is the **only Court in the state** to offer this service in so many legal areas.
- **Traffic** – People with traffic tickets can log on to the Court's website and pay their ticket, sign up for traffic school, or request a 30-day continuance. San Mateo is one of a half-dozen courts in the state to provide traffic access online and more than 800 people a month use this service. Additionally, the Court has partnered with the San Mateo County Chiefs of Police to tell people about this service. When drivers get a ticket, officers may place an informative post-it note on the traffic citation to inform drivers about this service. Finally, a number of police departments have placed the e-court link on their own websites to direct people to the Court's online traffic system.
- **Internet access to court information** – In April of this year, the Court launched Open Access, which provides the ability to search case information over the Internet at any time. This eliminates many visits to the courthouse to ask about case-specific information.
- **CourtNews, An Online Newsletter to the Community** – To relay critical information to the public, Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum developed *CourtNews*, a newsletter containing updates about the



court, community outreach activities and other important items of interest to the residents of San Mateo County.

- **Website updates** – The Court’s website is a quick and easy way to get information about the Court. In addition to the items detailed above, visitors to the website can also:
  - **Get jury duty information.** People who are summoned to report to jury duty may check their status online to see if they need to report to the courthouse.
  - **Learn about Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR).** ADR programs help people resolve disputes in the areas of family law, juvenile delinquency and dependency, civil, probate and more. San Mateo Superior Court’s ADR program, under the leadership of Program Administrator Sheila Purcell, serves as a model to courts in the US, India, Bosnia, Slovenia and other countries.
  - **Receive tentative rulings for their civil or probate matters.** This enables litigants and attorneys to learn about court decisions so that they do not need to come to the courthouse.

According to Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum, “these Internet services allow the court to help the public in a user-friendly way and at a time that is convenient for them.” The post-it notes for traffic, continued Judge Forcum, “represent the excellent relationship that this Court has with other members of the criminal justice system to provide information and services to the community that we serve.” Assistant Presiding Judge George A. Miram, who in January 2005 will become Presiding Judge, noted that “San Mateo’s innovative use of technology allows the court to maintain a high level of service to the public in the face of state budget cuts – in essence, allowing the Court to do more with less money.”

The Court’s e-court services can be found at [www.sanmateocourt.org](http://www.sanmateocourt.org)

