

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

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NEW LAW AND MOTION LOCAL RULE REQUIRES PARTIES TO OBTAIN HEARING DATES FROM COURT IN ADVANCE OF SETTING

SAN FRANCISCO -- A new local rule in the San Francisco Superior Court requires a moving party to obtain a hearing date and reservation number by sending an email in advance to the Court. The Court is setting limits on the number of matters to be heard each day in Law & Motion to better manage the calendar given the Court's limited resources.

Local Rule 8.2 (2)(b) outlines the process, which requires a moving party to send an email to calendar302@sftc.org. If the moving party does not have an email address, the litigant may call the Court at (415) 551-3688 between 8 a.m. – Noon to obtain a hearing date.

After obtaining a hearing date, the moving party must file the motion within 24 hours. Parties excluded from the requirements of Local Rule 2.10 must file the motion in Room 103.

Motions for Claim of Exemption do not need to reserve a hearing date prior to filing the motion.

The new rule took effect January 1, 2014. Judge Ernest H. Goldsmith, who presides over the Law & Motion calendar in Department 302, said many attorneys are unaware of the new rule, which allows the Court to limit the number of matters on calendar. Prior to the effective date of

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the rule, there were no limits on the number of matters that could be added to the daily calendar.

After filing the motion, the moving party must bring a courtesy copy of the filing to Department 302. If a motion challenges the sufficiency of a pleading already on file, the moving party must also supply a courtesy copy of that pleading. Courtesy copies of all subsequent filings relating to the motion must be delivered to Department 302.

Rule 8.2 (B)(1) outlines the procedure for taking a motion off calendar or requests for continuances, which must be made by email. If the party requesting does not have an email address, the party may provide all of the required information in a letter personally delivered to the Law & Motion Department. No continuances will be granted on the date set for hearing except upon a personal appearance and a showing of good cause in writing. Matters cannot be taken off calendar after noon the Court day before the hearing.

Judge Goldsmith urged parties to study and follow the procedures in the local rules with respect to Law & Motion practice in the Court.

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