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EXECUTIVE OFFICER - JURY COMMISSIONER - CLERK OF COURT

NOTICE

TO: All Law & Justice Agencies, Attorneys, & Members of the Legal Community

FROM: Gary M. Blair, Superior Court Executive Officer

DATE: October 26, 2009

RE: Clerk's Office Hours Revised Effective November 2, 2009

As most of you already know, the FY 2009-10 state budget has witnessed serious reductions in funding for every part of government including the judicial branch. Santa Barbara County Superior Court was certainly no exception. Indeed, we suffered budget cuts of approximately \$2.6 million.

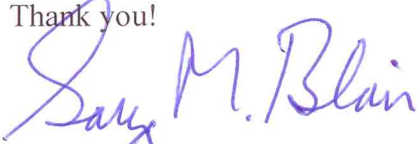
As part of our plan to address this crisis, the Santa Barbara Superior Court instituted 12 days of unpaid furlough for all staff for this fiscal year commencing in July 2009. Our judges are also participating in a voluntary furlough plan. Further, legislation was passed that closed the courts statewide for ten (10) business days commencing in September 2009 on the third Wednesday of each month. Savings from these measures alone are not enough to address all of the budget cuts. Thus, the court also instituted a general hiring freeze, among other measures, which has left numerous positions vacant and impacted our ability to timely process our workload. (We have approximately 16 vacant positions at the present time).

Staff vacancies have affected our ability to quickly process much of our office work. In order to generate an hour of uninterrupted time to allow our staff to address our growing backlog, we will be closing one (1) hour earlier at 3:00 p.m. These new office hours will be effective on Monday, November 2, 2009. (You may recall that we reduced our office hours in the same fashion in response to state budget cuts in FY 2003-2004).

The one piece of good news is that our “drop” boxes for document filing will be open until 5:00 p.m. each day. Those documents that are placed in the drop boxes by 5:00 p.m. will receive a file stamp date of the same day.

Obviously these are difficult times. Our judges and staff greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we carefully manage our resources to address our budget cuts.

Thank you!



Gary M. Blair
Superior Court Executive Officer