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COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

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MANDATORY E-FILING TO EXPAND TO NEW COMPLAINTS IN GENERAL CIVIL CASES AND FAMILY LAW DISSOLUTIONS

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court is expanding its mandatory e-filing program to include new complaints in general civil cases as well as new petitions and subsequent filing in Family Law Dissolution cases. The new service will become effective January 4, 2021.

The court has selected File&ServeXpress to provide litigants or attorneys with the ability to electronically submit General Civil initial filings as listed in this news release and Family Law Dissolution case filings.

"This is the next step in our e-filing program in San Francisco," said T. Michael Yuen, Court Executive Officer. "It will be an efficiency that we desperately need during a challenging time".

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MANDATORY E-FILING/SFSC

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Effective January 4, 2021, the Court's e-filing program will undergo its largest expansion since 2014 when it launched mandatory e-filing for all Civil Subsequent Filings for all case types.

The mandatory e-filing expansion for general civil cases includes these case types:

- Business Tort
- Civil Rights
- Common Counts/Open Book/Accounts/Collections
- Contract/Warranty
- Defamation
- Fraud
- Intellectual Property
- Medical Malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Vehicle-related-Personal Injury/Property Damage
- Products Liability
- Professional negligence
- Subrogation/Insurance
- Wrongful Discharge

All other Civil new filings will continue to be filed in paper form.

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MANDATORY E-FILING/SFSC

3-3-3-3

The mandatory e-filing expansion for Family Law cases includes these case types, including all associated subsequent filings:

- Dissolution of Marriage

All other Family Law new and subsequent filings will continue to be filed in paper form.

Electronic filing (e-filing) is not mandatory for self-represented litigants and non-parties.

Upon the Court's acceptance of a new filing a case number will be assigned, and filers will be notified by receiving a vendor receipt. After the initial pleadings open the file, e-filing will continue to be mandatory for all subsequent pleadings filed by an attorney.

E-filing rules are contained in San Francisco Superior Court local rule 2.11. File & ServeXpress (formerly LexisNexis), which has served as the Court's e-filing vendor for more than 20 years in Asbestos, Complex Litigation and Probate Trust and Estate cases and Misdemeanor Appeals, will continue to serve as the vendor for the program's expansion. File & ServeXpress also will remain as the agent of the Clerk to collect statutory filing fees. File & ServeXpress will provide free training to law firms on the e-filing system and services; and will also provide free technical support to registered users. More information is available at : www.fileandservexpress.com/san-francisco-superior-court/

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MANDATORY E-FILING/SFSC

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The Civil e-filing expansion is a key element of the Court's Electronic Information Management (EIM) project, managed by Chief Operations Officer Wayne Parinas along with Court Managers Diane Hakewill and Frances Yokota and overseen by Court Executive Officer T. Michael Yuen.

This phase of the project, which began in June 2020, is aligned to the Court's strategic plan and aims to use technology to improve service to the public, expand access, save money and reduce paper use.

The Presiding Judge, the Honorable Garrett Wong stated, "The e-filing expansion demonstrates the court's ongoing commitment to its core mission of access for the community it serves."

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