NEWS RELEASE Superior Court of California County of San Francisco



BRANDON E. RILEY Court Executive Officer

400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact: Ann E. Donlan adonlan@sftc.org

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING APEC

<u>Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo Urges Attorneys, Litigants to</u> <u>Appear Remotely Where Possible Due to APEC Impacts</u>

The San Francisco Superior Court will reduce its Clerk's Office hours, encourage employees to work from home, where possible, and urge judicial officers to set fewer matters due to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting November 11-17, Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo and Court Executive Officer Brandon E. Riley announced today. These measures are needed to assure the safety and security of court users, employees and judicial officers.

"Access to justice will be maintained and available to anyone who needs the Court during the APEC conference," Presiding Judge Massullo said. "I want to be clear: we will be open. Although APEC necessitates some modifications to court operations, I want to emphasize that the Court will remain open to hear cases with statutory deadlines as well as emergency matters, such as restraining orders or child custody orders. We are making changes that we hope will reduce the number of people traveling to the Court while maintaining access to justice."

The Clerk's Offices will be open for in-person service from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and drop boxes will be available for filings from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Riley said. The Court will leverage technology to reduce the number of in-person hearings in certain case types during this period. All criminal cases will be heard in-person and all criminal departments will be open. Efiling remains an option in Civil, Probate trust and estate cases, and Family Law dissolution (divorce), parentage and domestic violence cases. Efiled documents received by 11:59 p.m. will be deemed

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filed on that day provided there are no errors in the filing.

"Employees whose duties allow them to work remotely will do so during this time," Riley said. "We will use remote technology, where possible, to reduce the number of people traveling to our courthouses. I believe these measures are warranted and prudent."

In-person self-help services in the ACCESS Center will be unavailable on November 13, 14 and 16. For self-help inquiries on these days, contact the ACCESS Center Live Help Line from 8 to 11:30 a.m. by calling (415) 551-0605. LiveChat also is available on these days from 12 to 3 p.m. on the ACCESS Center webpage at this link: <u>https://sf.courts.ca.gov/self-help</u> More information is available <u>here</u>.

Jurors may be required to appear at the Court in-person during this time. For any questions, the Jury Office may be reached at (415) 551-3608.

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