



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** December 7, 2011

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### **Court Reduces Clerk's Office Hours Due to Budget Cuts**

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – Due to unprecedented State budget cuts, the San Mateo Superior Court will be closing all Clerk's Offices at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, effective January 3rd, 2012. The Civil, Family Law, Juvenile, Probate, Records, and Small Claims Clerk's Offices will open at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday while the Criminal and Traffic Clerk's Offices will open at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday to assist defendants who appear on early morning calendars. Prior to making this reduction, most of the court's clerk's offices were open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This change also brings San Mateo Superior Court in line with the average number of hours for clerk's offices in other Bay Area courts. By reducing counter hours, court staff will be able to prepare court calendars and process cases in as timely a manner as possible.

With the recent reduction, this year's budget for the judicial branch, as passed by the California Legislature, has been reduced by 30 percent and the San Mateo Superior Court workforce has been reduced by 24 percent. The court remains committed to serving the public to the best of its ability given limited staffing and resources.

The court has responded to deepening budget reductions for over three years and has worked diligently to continue to meet the essential needs of court users and litigants while reducing expenses to stay in line with its authorized level of funding. Steps the court has already taken to address the budget shortfall include: reducing traffic arraignment calendars, implementing an online service where the public can calendar themselves for traffic matters, renegotiated service contracts, consolidating trial court services, and significant workforce reductions.

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