

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



**MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
ANNOUNCES ONLINE REGISTER OF ACTIONS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(May 4, 2010)**

To make it easier for the general public and attorneys to gain access to information about some court cases, the Marin County Superior Court now provides registers of action (also sometimes called court dockets) on-line for civil and probate cases. This new feature is available on the court's website at www.marincourt.org. This innovation marks the latest in a series of technology enhancements to improve access to public court records for parties and attorneys and to provide reliable alternatives to coming to the courthouse to seek information.

Presiding Judge Terrence R. Boren highlighted the benefits of this welcome addition to the court's website. He stated, "In this time of diminishing resources and staffing levels, the addition of a web-based register of actions for non-confidential cases will relieve pressure on staff to provide this information in person and will reduce public frustration caused by waiting in line for information that should be readily available electronically." Former Presiding Judge Verna A. Adams added, "Before I became a judge, this kind of solution would have saved me countless trips to the courthouse just to find out the status of my cases. I am sure litigants and our local attorneys will appreciate this innovation."

Most civil and probate cases are open and available to the public and will be included at the website. Juvenile cases and some probate case-types are confidential under California law, so they will not be available on-line. California Rules of Court also prohibit the Court from making available family law, conservatorship, guardianship and civil harassment cases on-line. Likewise, any cases that have been sealed by a judge will not be available. Criminal and traffic case dockets are not part of this new functionality, as these cases are managed in a legacy computer system that make the dockets difficult to access in a web-based application.

The public should also note that these registers of action are not the 'official' court record. To get certified copies of registers of action, a trip to the courthouse or arrangements to prepay and receive documents by mail will still be required. The on-line information can be viewed and printed, but should not be confused with official records, obtained from court staff.

Court Executive Officer Kim Turner noted, "The brick and mortar mentality of the court is changing with the times. We want our information to be readily accessible to all who are entitled to view it. We also take our responsibility seriously as custodians of the court record, so we will enforce strict public access requirements as we go forward. We hope everyone will find the new register of actions a helpful tool to answer questions and avoid unnecessary trips to the courthouse. Our philosophy is to encourage the public to be on-line, not in line."

For additional information regarding this press release, contact
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