



Superior Court of California County of Orange *News Release*

Public Information Office
Contact: Gwen Vieau (657) 622-7097
pio@occourts.org

September 4, 2013

Superior Court of Orange County Wins National Award for Implementing Mandatory Electronic Filing of Civil Case Documents

Santa Ana, CA – The Center for Digital Government announced that the Superior Court of Orange County won a 2013 Digital Government Achievement Award for an innovative, collaborative project that requires civil cases to be filed electronically (eFiled) with the Court. The nationwide award-winners were named in a news release and on the web (www.centerdigitalgov.com).

"As technology continues to evolve, governments are finding innovative ways of utilizing new technologies to transform operations and engage with citizens," said Todd Sander, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. "This year's winners have demonstrated the ability to adapt to the changing technology landscape, while creating first-class public and business services. Congratulations to this year's winners for their remarkable achievements!"

The Court worked with Assembly Member Jim Silva to get the California Legislature to adopt Assembly Bill 2073 enabling the creation of a pilot program to require eFiling for civil case documents in the Superior Court of Orange County. The project was initially implemented as a cost-saving measure to deal with budget cuts to the Court. "The public can help mitigate the impending budget cuts by taking advantage of eFiling. Working collaboratively, we will keep our courthouse doors open and ensure public access to our courts," said Alan Carlson, chief executive officer of the Superior Court of Orange County. The ultimate goal is allow other California courts to replicate this project.

The improved service and cost-savings from the project, implemented January 1, 2013, include:

- Court customers can eFile documents 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. In addition, the filing deadline for eFiled documents was recently extended to 11:59 p.m. In the past, customers needed to drive to a courthouse, possibly pay to park, and wait in line to file their documents at a public service window, open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Court partnered with numerous companies to provide the eFiling service. The companies provide training, customer support, and other value added services in addition to basic eFiling. The large number of service providers creates a competitive environment that allows customers greater choice. Fee exemptions are available for customers who demonstrate that eFiling creates a hardship.

Visit Our Web Site: www.occourts.org

Superior Court of California, County of Orange • 700 Civic Center Drive West • Santa Ana, CA 92701

- EFiled in civil cases increased from 13% of documents to over 95%. Data entry is reduced and the data is more accurate as the information feeds directly into the Court's case management system with minimal manual input from staff. The Court receives about 900,000 civil documents each year, which translates to an annual net savings of over \$1,400,000.
- EFiled documents can be accessed by anyone online more quickly.
- The electronic record is the official record which means paper case files do not have to be stored or transported from file room to courtroom.

More information about eFiling documents in civil cases with the Superior Court of Orange County is available online at www.occourts.org/online-services/efiling/.