



Superior Court of California
County of Orange

NEWS RELEASE

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New Calendaring System for Felony Cases

Santa Ana— To reduce pretrial delays, save time, and utilize limited judicial resources more efficiently, the Superior Court of California, County of Orange will change its case management practices for processing felony trials. Effective March 10, 2008, the Court will transition to a modified master calendar system.

Under the new calendaring system, all felony trials not resolved by settlement conference will be sent to the master calendar courtroom, Department C4, Central Justice Center. Hon. Thomas J. Borris Supervising Judge of the Felony Panel will oversee the master calendar, hear motions, and assign cases ready for trial to a felony panel judge.

Supervising Judge Borris said, “With an increase in felony case filings, case complexity, and the number of jury trials with multiple defendants, the Court reevaluated its processing of felony cases to meet growing demands.” He added, “Last year, the Court handled more than 460 felony jury trials, compared to 394 felony jury trials in 2006. Transitioning to a master calendar system reduces the risk that a case ready for trial may be dismissed due to a backlog in trailing cases or that a civil judge would be pulled from their caseload to handle a felony case.”

To accommodate the calendaring change, Assigned Judge Robert R. Fitzgerald will move to Department C5 where he will continue to hear arraignments on felony probation violations.