



# NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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## **San Diego Superior Court Begins E-Filing**

Effective March 4, 2013, San Diego Superior Court will open up E-filing in its Central Civil Division. Attorneys and the public will now be able to file documents with the Court without physically coming into the courthouse.

Documents may be filed electronically in non-mandated civil cases in the Central Division where either: (1) the case is first initiated on or after March 4, 2013; or (2) the case is already pending as of March 3, 2013 and has been imaged by the court.

Also beginning March 4, 2013, certain case types will be subject to mandatory E-filing, including civil class actions, some consolidated and coordinated actions, and actions that are provisionally complex under CRC 3.400-3.403 (as set forth in the Civil Cover Sheet, Judicial Council form CM-010 – but not including construction defect actions). “Complex cases” included in mandatory filing are as follows: Antitrust/Trade Regulation, Mass Tort, Environmental/Toxic Tort, and Securities Litigation cases, as well as insurance coverage claims arising from these case types. Construction defect cases, currently being filed through the LexisNexis website, will continue to be filed through that system until further notice.

The movement to E-filing in some Civil cases is one way the San Diego Superior Court is

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dealing with the \$33 million dollars in budget cuts enacted by the State Legislature. Those cuts have resulted in the reductions of more than 170 court positions and the closing of 20 courtrooms.

Supervising Civil Court Judge Jeffrey B. Barton says, “E-filing is a win for the public and the court. The public has increased access to court files and can now file documents with the court from any location with an internet connection. The court benefits from decreased processing time and can handle filings more rapidly than in the paper world. This in turn benefits the public as the court can process and return filings faster. By using E-filing, attorneys and parties can assist both the court and public in dealing with the impact of staff reductions caused by financial cuts to the branch.”

For court users, benefits include not having to wait in line at the courthouse or leave documents in drop boxes afterhours. With E-filing, users are able to file through the designated vendor in a secure fashion, ensuring all documents related to the filing arrive at the court together. In addition, E-file users have the convenience of submitting documents to the court via their home or office computer, which means extra time to work on their documents without the worry of running to the court to make that 5:00pm deadline.

E-filing is governed by General Order No. 010313 and the court’s Electronic Filing Requirements, both of which are available for viewing on the court website :

<http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov> .

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