

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



**MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
ANNOUNCES NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Marin County Superior Court is installing a new telephone system, using "Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)" technology, the new industry standard in telecommunications. VoIP will save money and will provide the Court with greater telephone functionality to improve efficiency, enhance public service and expand access to justice. The cutover date to the new phone system is scheduled for Monday, December 14th.

Presiding Judge Verna A. Adams hailed the new phone system as a smart and timely strategic move for the Court. She noted, "In what is expected to be a long and difficult financial period in California, it is critical that the Court make budget decisions that create savings in future years. The VoIP telephone system will save the Court approximately \$140,000 per year in recurring telephone charges. By June 2010, this system will also provide new features that the public will benefit from, including traffic and criminal payments by phone, enhanced juror self-service and easy-to-access tentative rulings. We look at this new phone system as a very good investment."

As part of the implementation of VoIP, the Court cannot retain its existing telephone numbers and will publish new public phone numbers. All new phone numbers will have a "444" prefix. All public phone numbers will be on the Court's website as of the 'go-live' date at <http://www.marincourt.org/contact.htm>. Judicial department numbers will also be available at http://www.marincourt.org/judicial_dept_assign.htm.

Beginning in 2010, other telecommunications and interactive modules will come on-line in the Court's phone system, including interactive voice response for juror self service; tentative rulings in civil, probate and family law cases; and criminal and traffic information and payments. Improved phone technology and information is one important way the Court will manage the lean times ahead. Court Executive Officer Kim Turner noted, "The public is encouraged to use phone and web technologies wherever possible, since the size of our workforce is declining. We hope everyone will first try to find answers to their questions through these avenues and only come to the courthouse when they must transact business in person."

The new phone numbers will be published in the next edition of the AT&T Phone Directory in June, 2010.

For additional information regarding this press release, contact
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