

Superior Court of California County of Orange *News Release*

> Public Information Office Contact: Kostas Kalaitzidis, (657) 622-7097 PIO@occourts.org

March 25, 2021

Court Launches Electronic Evidence Submission Pilot Program

Santa Ana, CA – The Orange County Superior Court will launch an electronic evidence submission pilot program on April 5, 2021. The program will include selected courtrooms in Probate, Civil, Small Claims, Family Law, and Traffic. Five courtrooms have been designated to participate in the pilot program: C10, C61, C65, CT1, and VCC5.

"This effort is designed to make the Court's services more efficient and enable cases to be processed faster, while at the same time making it easier for the parties to cases to submit evidence," said Erick L. Larsh, Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge.

Under this program the Court will request that evidence be electronically submitted to the designated courtrooms via the electronic evidence portal. Each courtroom will post additional instructions on the Court's <u>website</u>.

"We are embarking on this pilot as we are slowly emerging from the worst pandemic in a century, and we are faced with a backlog of cases. This new process will be a significant aid in overcoming this problem," said David Yamasaki, Court Executive Officer.

The first phase will include:

- Probate cases scheduled for Department C10, as selected by the Court
- Civil (Unlawful Detainer and GVRO) cases scheduled in Department C61
- Small Claims cases scheduled in Department VCC5, as selected by the Court

Access to the portal will be available for public use on March 26, 2021, for cases scheduled to be heard beginning on or after April 5, 2021.

The second phase will include:

• Family Law cases scheduled for Department C65

Access to the portal will be available for public use on April 2, 2021, for cases scheduled to be heard in C65, beginning on or after on April 12, 2021.

The third and final phase of the pilot program will include:

• Traffic cases scheduled for Department CT1

Access to the portal will be available for public use on April 9, 2021, for cases scheduled to be heard in CT1, beginning on or after on April 20, 2021. Specifically, proceedings for matters filed by the Orange and Tustin Police Departments will be subject to the pilot program.

All five courtrooms mentioned above will continue to follow their current rules for the submission of evidence until the pilot program is launched on April 5, 2021.

For further details regarding the pilot program, as well as the <u>Administrative Order</u> setting up the program and courtroom-specific instructions, please visit the Court's website under the Online Services tab, Electronic Evidence Portal <u>https://www.occourts.org/online-services/EvidencePortal.html</u>

###