Superior Court of California
County of Orange
Announcement

Public Information Office
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January 26, 2026

Orange County Superior Court to Expand Civil Unlimited Pilot Program for Resolving Discovery Disputes and Expediting Law and Motion Hearings

Santa Ana, CA – Starting January 26, 2026, the Orange County Superior Court will triple the size of its Informal Discovery Conference Program to 15 courtrooms with the addition of the following five departments:

- Department C16 – Hon. Carmen Luege
- Department C20 – Hon. Theodore R. Howard
- Department C44 – Hon. Thomas J. Lo
- Department N14 – Hon. Julianne S. Bancroft
- Department N17 – Hon. Craig Griffin

On June 30, 2025, the Court launched this new pilot program for its Civil Unlimited Panel to promptly resolve discovery motions and reduce law and motion hearing delays in the participating departments.

Program Overview:

The Informal Discovery Conference Program is designed to streamline the resolution of discovery disputes and reduce calendar congestion in the participating departments by centralizing discovery motions in a single, dedicated department. On an expedited basis, all discovery motions filed in the participating departments are being set for an informal discovery conference in the dedicated discovery department with the Hon. Andre De La Cruz presiding. Only if the conference is unsuccessful, do the motions proceed to full briefing and a formal hearing in the discovery department. To date, only a few motions have proceeded to a formal hearing.

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