



NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: August 11, 2015

SAN BERNARDINO SUPERIOR COURT EXPANDS SERVICES IN BARSTOW DISTRICT TO INCLUDE TWO FULL-TIME COURTROOMS AND EXTENDED CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
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Marsha G. Slough
Presiding Judge

Christina M. Volkers
Executive Officer

Effective October 13, 2015, the San Bernardino Superior Court will enhance services at the Barstow District courthouse by operating two full-time courtrooms and opening the Clerk's Office to the public full-time Monday through Friday. These enhancements to the Barstow District are the result of the Court's ongoing efforts to restore services that were reduced over the last several years during challenging budgetary times.

Beginning on May 6, 2013, the Barstow courthouse started offering reduced services—operating only one part-time courtroom to hear traffic, landlord-tenant, small claims, and domestic violence cases and opening the Clerk's Office to the public just three days per week. Since that time, court leaders have continued to partner with city and county officials in addition to working with state judicial, legislative, and executive branch leaders to identify funding solutions to ensure the restoration of essential court services in Barstow and throughout San Bernardino County.

"In the midst of the budget crisis, the court was operating on life-support," said Presiding Judge Marsha Slough. "Now, as funding is increased, we have the opportunity to restore services in a thoughtful and strategic manner that will create significant benefits for the community and ensure that the court continues to operate in an efficient manner."

As part of the expansion of services in the Barstow district, effective October 13, 2015, all small claims, landlord tenant, and infraction matters from the Victorville and Barstow districts will be filed and heard in the Barstow courthouse. Relocating future filings for these matters to the Barstow courthouse will allow the Victorville courthouse to expand its operations to include three full-time family law courtrooms and six all-purpose criminal trial courtrooms. These changes will mirror operational efficiencies gained in the Fontana district and create consistency county-wide. Finally, all Traffic and Non-Traffic Infraction citations, from the Needles district will be filed and heard in the Barstow district, effective October 13, 2015.

Assistant Presiding Judge Raymond L. Haight III stated "the court hopes this expansion and relocation of services will significantly reduce, if not completely eliminate, the transfer of trials throughout our county, which has created substantial hardship for victims, witnesses, law enforcement, and the public."

The court will continue its efforts to enhance court services throughout San Bernardino County. "As restoration of funding becomes available in future years," said Court Executive Officer, Christina M. Volkers, "the court hopes to offer more services in the Needles area and the county's mountain communities—two areas where access to the court has been significantly reduced due to budget constraints."

For more information about the planned expansion of services in the Barstow District, please contact the Court Executive Office at 909-708-8747.

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