



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 72

Release Date: December 8, 2005

New Uniform Civil Fee Structure, Fee Increases Take Effect on January 1, 2006

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California has announced a new court civil filing fee structure in state trial courts as the result of the enactment of the Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act, which was approved by the Legislature and the Governor earlier this year.

The new standardized fees will provide for a more simplified fee structure, increase access to the courts, and offer predictability and uniformity for court users.

The changes in court fees are designed to maintain access and continue public services in the California trial courts. The complexity and lack of statewide consistency in setting filing fees created the need for a uniform civil fee structure.

Eighty-nine civil fees were charged differently across the state's 58 counties, including law library fees that ranged from \$3 to \$41 and variances in fees for dispute resolution programs and children's waiting rooms.

The new structure remedies many of these issues and will:

- ***Streamline and simplify the civil fee structure.*** Various surcharges and add-on fees are rolled into one uniform filing fee.
- ***Create uniformity.*** For the vast majority of fees, the same fees will be charged for the same services in all 58 counties.
- ***Increase access to the courts.*** The new structure directs additional funding to equal access programs.
- ***Offer predictability.*** Court users will know that fees will remain consistent from county to county and will remain unchanged for a minimum of two years.

Each superior court will begin collecting the new consolidated fee in any affected court matter effective January 1, 2006. There will be no grace period for filings made on or after January 1.

The new statewide fee schedule is posted on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/civilfees.htm> and is available at the clerk's office in each court location. Information about applicable local fees and answers to specific questions can also be obtained at the clerk's office.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

#