



**Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612**

August 12, 2005

For Immediate Release

Use of Electronic Devices in All Alameda County Court Facilities

In an effort to advance and improve the safety of the Alameda County Superior Court's courthouses and court facilities, beginning September 6, 2005 the possession and usage of electronic devices by the general public in Alameda County Superior Court courthouses and court facilities will be regulated.

All electronic devices will now be subject to x-ray or visual inspection by an authorized employee of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The use of any form, means or manner of photographing or recording is prohibited in courthouses and court facilities, unless otherwise ordered by a judge. Additionally, cellular phones must remain off in all courtrooms and in other designated areas, unless expressly permitted by a judge.

In light of security concerns, Honorable Barbara J. Miller, Presiding Judge of the Alameda County Superior Court, announced that the new policy would affect all individuals entering Alameda County Superior Court courthouses and court facilities. However, this general directive will not affect media requests pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 980.

The Court's definition of "electronic devices" includes cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, cellular or digital phones, Palm Pilots, personal digital assistant devices (PDA's), and all similar types of electronic cable, digital, computerized or other forms and methods of recording, transmitting, or communication. Notebook computers may still be used unless they are equipped with video or sound recording capability.

To help publicize this information for the general public, a summary of the general directive will be posted in all of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda court locations.

The contact for this press release is James Brighton, Bureau Chief of the Planning, Research, Court Services, and Public Information Bureau of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, at (510) 272-5093 or email: jbrighton@alameda.courts.ca.gov