

**Superior Court of California  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



Wynne S. Carvill, Presiding Judge  
Chad Finke, Executive Officer

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of Alameda County defers taking action on proposed amendments to Local Rule 1.10 regarding jury panels.

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On May 15, 2018, the Alameda County Superior Court's Executive Committee met to discuss the public comments submitted concerning the proposed revision to Local Rule 1.10 regarding jury panels.

Right now, under long-established practices, nearly 75% of all cases in Alameda County—all felonies, some misdemeanors, and all civil case types—use countywide jury panels. However, the vast majority of public comments incorrectly assumed that no cases currently use countywide jury panels. The proposed amendments would only change jury service in the remaining misdemeanor criminal cases to conform to current practices.

Many of the comments submitted note the hardship that prospective jurors could experience. The Court is aware of this potential travel burden and is weighing it against the negative consequences of continuing to use subpanels for some misdemeanor cases. Most significantly, jurors summoned for misdemeanor panels become ineligible for felony panels for twelve months. Thus, if the Court continues to use only jurors from Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, and San Leandro for misdemeanor trials in Oakland, those same jurors will be excluded from countywide jury panels for one year. That, in turn, could mean underrepresentation of Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, and San Leandro citizens on countywide juries, leading those juries to not reflect the diversity of the Alameda community. The Court has serious concerns as to what that outcome could mean for the rights of felony defendants and all civil litigants.

The proposed revision to Local Rule 1.10 will not go into effect on July 1, 2018. Over the next several weeks, the Court will further review the issues raised by the public comments and will reach out to those commenting public officials to further discuss the issues implicated and to solicit their views as to potential solutions. Whatever the ultimate decision, the Court greatly appreciates the public comments received and welcomes public participation in the rule-making process.