

New State Appeal Court For Santa Cruz County

Attorneys in Santa Cruz County won't have so far to travel in coming years when they appeal local court decisions.

10/1/81
Gov. Jerry Brown Wednesday approved setting up a Sixth District appellate court in San Jose that will serve Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey and San Benito counties.

County attorneys have been going to First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco to file appellate briefs and they are hoping it will cut down the one- to two-year wait for a hearing at that level.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Donald O. May in Santa Cruz County said, "It will cut down travel time. The argument that's been presented against it is that any new court will bring its own approach to the problem and that approach may, or will, differ from other courts," the judge said.

Assistant County Counsel Dwight Herr also recognized that the new three justice panel in San Jose will cut down on travel time, as well as possibly the waiting period for appeal hearings.

He said the individual court differences, as far as process of cases is concerned, is less in the state appellate courts than in federal courts "where each court seems to have an individual process."

Along with the new Sixth District, it adds a new three-justice division to the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco; moves San Luis Obispo County from the Fifth District to the Second and adds two new three-justice divisions to the Second.

Also, it adds a new division each in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, increases the number of justices in Fresno's Fifth District from six to eight. It provides for a new four-justice division in the Fourth District in Orange County; reduces from five to four justices the size of a division in San Bernardino and increases from five to six justices the division in San Diego, according to The Associated Press.

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