

Alameda County Public Defender

Lakeside Plaza Office
1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 400
Oakland, CA 94612-4305
(510) 272-6600



Brendon D. Woods
Public Defender
Youseef Elias
Chief Assistant Public Defender

*** PRESS ADVISORY ***

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Contact: Deputy Public Defender Jeff Chorney
(510) 272-6640 desk (510) 853-2439 cell jeff.chorney@acgov.org

Public Defender to Hold Press Conference and Rally on Thursday to Oppose Plan to Hold Oakland Arraignments at New Courthouse in Dublin

OAKLAND, Calif. – Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods will host a press conference Thursday, June 29, to announce a coalition opposing plans to hold all in-custody arraignments at the new Dublin courthouse set to open in July.

The event will be on the historic steps of the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland and Woods will speak along with families of criminal defendants, formerly incarcerated and others concerned that moving arraignments from Oakland to Dublin will result in more people being held in jail while they fight their cases.

The Public Defender's Office, which represents the majority of criminal defendants, has formed a coalition of local politicians, non-profits and activists to oppose the plan, which recently was announced by Alameda County Presiding Judge Morris Jacobson. The Dublin courthouse, officially known as the East County Hall of Justice, originally was to host only South County arraignments, including those currently at the Hayward and Pleasanton courthouses.

North County arraignments – including Oakland, Berkeley and Albany – currently are held at the Wiley Manuel Courthouse in Oakland. The Dublin courthouse is approximately 30 miles away and is one mile from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

Arraignment is a critical point in a criminal case because that's when criminal charges are announced and the court sets bail or chooses to release someone on their own recognizance. It must take place at a location that is readily accessible to defendants' families, who need to attend in person in order to provide essential information to the court, including community ties and employment.

If families are unable to travel the extra 30 miles to Dublin, more defendants will remain in custody for longer periods of time, particularly defendants with the lowest income and the least serious charges.

WHAT: Press conference

WHEN: 12:15-1:15 p.m. Thursday, June 29, 2017

WHERE: East steps of Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland

Here is a list of coalition members:

- 1) American Civil Liberties Union
- 2) Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff
- 3) Oakland Vice Mayor and Councilmember Annie Campbell Washington
- 4) Assembly Member Rob Bonta
- 5) Assembly Member Tony Thurmond
- 6) Oakland City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan
- 7) Oakland City Councilmember Abel Guillen
- 8) Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb
- 9) Oakland City Councilmember Larry Reid
- 10) Oakland City Councilmember Desley Brooks
- 11) Oakland City Councilmember Annie Campbell Washington
- 12) Oakland City Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney
- 13) Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan
- 14) East Bay Community Law Center
- 15) Ella Baker Center
- 16) Equal Justice Society
- 17) Silicon Valley De-Bug
- 18) Essie Justice Group
- 19) Bay Area Legal Aid
- 20) Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- 21) Disability Rights Education Defense Fund
- 22) Urban Peace Movement
- 23) All of Us or None
- 24) The Asian Prisoner Support Committee
- 25) A. L. Costa Community Development
- 26) CURYJ
- 27) Participatory Defense Movement
- 28) Root and Rebound

ACCESS TO JUSTICE DENIED

Starting July 17, Presiding Judge of Alameda County, Morris Jacobson, wants to hold all in-custody court arraignments at the new courthouse in Dublin (“East County Hall of Justice”),

**forcing community members from Oakland, Berkeley and Fremont to miss their loved one’s first court appearance
if they can’t travel to Dublin.**

This will result in MORE TIME IN CUSTODY.

This will impact over 15,000 FAMILIES PER YEAR.

Justice should occur at the courthouses that already exist in your community.

What you can do:

Call or write to:

- **Court Executive Officer Chad Finke**

(510) 891-6273
1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
cfinke@alameda.courts.ca.gov

- **Presiding Judge Morris Jacobson**

(510) 891-6040
1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612

