SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF
SANTA CRUZ
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release Release Date: 09/01/2023

Superior Court Launches New Jury Service System and Summons

Santa Cruz—People who are summoned for jury service in Santa Cruz County will see a new jury summons in the mail starting early September. The new summons, which will arrive in the mail in the form of a postcard, is much easier to read and comes with a lot less waste. Many California courts have moved to a postcard style summons in an effort to reduce waste and make responding to the summons easier. For the next couple of weeks, some jurors must still respond to the traditional summons and people should pay careful attention to the information the Court has posted to its website about responding to that summons. By mid-October, however, all jurors will be responding to the new postcard. "We know there will be a period of adjustment over the next several weeks, but we are striving to make serving as a juror in this county as easy and convenient as possible" explains Court Executive Officer, Sasha Morgan.

Last year, the Santa Cruz Court sent approximately 73,000 summonses to residents across Santa Cruz County and each of those summonses included two envelopes (one to mail back to the court) along with an 8"x14" sized summons—and about 4,000 of those summonses were undeliverable because of bad addresses. While the Court makes every effort to reduce undeliverable mail, the process has its share of waste and that's one reason why Santa Cruz is joining the other courts across the state to use a postcard summons.

Along with the new style summons, the Santa Cruz Court is also adopting a new jury management system that includes both an online and phone system

where potential jurors can confirm their service and make certain requests using an automated attendant. Rather than mailing back a summons to request a postponement or to indicate that someone is not qualified to serve, people can simply notify the court using a computer, mobile device, or by phone—and for people who do not have access to any of these options, the Court can still mail you a paper summons if you request it. The Court also offers phone and office hours from the County building at 701 Ocean Street Monday through Friday. Still, those who use the internet or phone options will find the process much more convenient with timely responses from the Court in the form of email and text messages.

Serving as a juror is an incredibly important part of promoting bedrock democratic principles like access, fairness, and justice for all. People who serve as jurors often report finding the experience extremely interesting and meaningful. The Court is deeply appreciative of the sacrifices jurors make and the new jury system and summons are designed to enhance that experience.

An image of the new postcard style summons is available on the Court's website at www.santacruzcourt.org. For questions, please contact the Superior Court at 831-420-2203 or by email at jury.information@santacruzcourt.org.