

**COURTROOM INFORMATION**  
**DEPARTMENT 16**  
**STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE**

JUDGE: Steve Cochran

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: Maribel Alaniz

COURTROOM ASSISTANT: Patricia Figueroa

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (213) 633-0516

LOCATION: Department 16, Room 306, 3rd Floor, Stanley Mosk  
Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Welcome to Department 16. The court appreciates attorneys and self-represented parties taking the time to read and comply with the policies and procedures set forth below.

**CHECK IN: You may be asked to wait outside the courtroom before you check in. Please follow the courtroom staff's instructions.** Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

**1. Civility and Professionalism**

The court places a very high value on civility, courtesy, and professionalism in the practice of law and the judicial process. The court expects all attorneys and parties to treat each other, witnesses, jurors, court personnel, the court, and others

with the highest level of civility, courtesy, and professionalism, both inside and outside the courtroom. The court expects all attorneys and parties to grant reasonable requests for professional courtesies, such as requests for reasonable extensions of time for deadlines to respond to pleadings, discovery, or other matters.

## **2. Court Reporters**

Because Department 16 is dedicated to unlimited jurisdiction civil cases, the services of an official court reporter are not available for hearings or trials in Department 16, except as provided by California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, subdivision (c), and Los Angeles Superior Court Local Rules, Rule 2.21, subdivision (a). A party who has not received a fee waiver may arrange for the presence of a certified shorthand reporter to serve as official pro tempore reporter pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, subdivision (c), and Los Angeles Superior Court Local Rules, Rule 2.21, subdivisions (a) and (e). A party who has received a fee waiver may request an official court reporter pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, subdivision (c), and Los Angeles Superior Court Local Rules, Rule 2.21, subdivision (a).

The court strongly recommends the use of court reporters for both court and jury trials.

### **3. Motions**

All motion hearing dates must be reserved in advance on the Court Reservation System at [www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org), under “Online Services,” “Civil,” “Court Reservation System (CRS).” Motions are set for hearing Monday through Friday.

Under the rules of court and the court’s general orders, all filings must be electronically filed unless the filer is a self-represented litigant or otherwise exempted from mandatory electronic filing. Unless directed by the court, Department 16 does not accept courtesy paper copies.

### **4. Discovery Disputes**

The court encourages the parties’ counsel and self-represented litigants to informally resolve discovery disputes, instead of filing discovery motions. The court requires all parties to meet and confer in good faith to informally resolve all such disputes before filing a discovery motion. If the parties are not able to resolve their discovery dispute, the party seeking the discovery responses may reserve a hearing date using the Court Reservation System and electronically file the motion. The court does not hold informal discovery conferences.

### **5. Ex Parte Applications**

Ex parte applications are heard at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. The court typically considers and rules on ex parte applications in chambers based on

the papers, without hearing oral argument. Attorneys and self-represented parties may appear for ex parte hearings by telephone or videoconference.

Ex parte applications must comply with the requirements of California Rules of Court, rules 3.1200-3.1207.

Please note that section 8 of the First Amended General Order governing Mandatory Electronic Filing for Civil, filed May 3, 2019, provides that, with the exception of self-represented litigants and other persons excused from filing documents electronically:

- a) Ex parte applications and all documents in support thereof must be electronically filed no later than 10:00 a.m. the day before the ex parte hearing.
- b) Any written opposition to an ex parte application must be electronically filed by 8:30 a.m. the day of the ex parte hearing. . . .

## **6. Settlement**

“There is a strong public policy in the State of California to encourage the voluntary settlement of litigation.” (*Pearson v. Superior Court* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1333, 1339.) The court believes that it is in the best interests of the parties to settle their cases at an early stage to avoid the time, expense, uncertainty,

and risk of trial, to enable them to devote their time and energy to matters that are more productive, and to be in control of their financial affairs moving forward.

Toward that end, at the Case Management Conference, the court will usually issue an order requiring the parties and their counsel to hold a meeting to discuss and try to settle all disputed issues in the case. Alternatively, if the parties stipulate to hold a mediation with a private mediator, the court will order the parties to hold a mediation instead of a settlement meeting. The court expects the parties' counsel and any self-represented parties to discuss before the Case Management Conference, and to be prepared to address at the Case Management Conference, whether the parties will stipulate to hold a mediation with a private mediator and to share the costs (typically, 50% paid by plaintiffs and 50% paid by defendants) and, if so, what deadline the court should set for completion of the mediation.

## **7. Trial Preparation Order**

Department 16 has a Trial Preparation Order which applies to every case set for trial. The court expects the parties' counsel and any self-represented parties to work together to jointly prepare and submit the documents and binders required by that order.

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