



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**

NEWS RELEASE

**Media and Community Relations Office
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**Orange County Superior Court and West Group
Suspend Development of Electronic Filing Pilot Project**

(updated for clarification)
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Santa Ana - The Orange County Superior Court and West Group, of Eagan, Minnesota, announced today that their partnership to develop an electronic filing program for the Court has been suspended due to the significant technical challenges in integrating the various component products. These products include WestFile, middleware, case management and document management component systems, all of which are necessary for a total E-Filing solution.

West Group has supported electronic court filing since its inception, has successfully deployed an electronic court filing system pilot in New York and has been working on a pilot with the Superior County Court system in Orange County, Ca (OCSC) since April 1999.

The Court and West Group have made significant progress in preparing to implement electronic filing. West Group has developed and completed the Web-filing portion of the pilot (WestFile), which has been working for more than a year. The Orange County Superior Court's case management system has been upgraded to provide the functionality of image-enabled integration between the case and document management systems. However, the Court's pilot project has been delayed due to the technological and business process complexities required to fully integrate the WestFile, middleware, case management and document management system components.

Orange County Superior Court's model for electronic filing has required the full and seamless integration of the system components in order to enable the electronic receipt and processing of filings (both data and documents); to relieve court staff of the laborious tasks of scanning, indexing, and data entry required to process paper documents; to manage

successfully the anticipated large-volume of electronic filings into the Court's production environment; to provide adequate security for electronic documents and safeguard the court's production systems' environment; and to effectively address the privacy and access requirements as specified in the proposed California Rules of Court that are scheduled to be effective in January, 2002.

Given the challenges of this complex systems' integration model, the inability to fulfill the goals of the project without the full integration of these components, and in view of the extended timeline projected for the project, immediate priorities have changed and the Orange County Superior Court and West Group have agreed to suspend their e-filing development partnership and mutual efforts to deploy the WestFile service in Orange County.

West Group and the Court will continue to cooperate – sharing expertise and technology – to deploy an electronic court filing system in Orange County. A new focus will be e-File that enables the Court's innovative I-CAN! Kiosk and web-based legal services system which will be used for District Attorney Family Support and Pro Se litigant filings. West Group will provide Orange County with its WestFile electronic filing software to help support the continued development of this more focused electronic court filing process.

At such a time when all of the required technology components for fully integrated electronic filing become available – hopefully accelerated by recent momentum to establish standards, such as Legal XML – West Group and the Court will reconsider their joint development of a broader WestFile system for Orange County.

For further information, please contact Orange County Superior Court Chief Executive Officer Alan Slater at (714) 834-5277.

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