



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Court Moves to In-House Publishing of Opinions

SAN FRANCISCO – Those who regularly follow the decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will have recently noticed changes in the opinions filed electronically on the court’s Internet website: www.ca9.uscourts.gov/opinions. Since early November, the court has been processing opinions in-house rather than contracting for that service from West Publishing. The change is expected to produce a substantial cost savings for the court.

Court staff now manage the process of converting opinions from the original word processing documents into Adobe PDF files, which are then uploaded onto the website, where they can be viewed and/or downloaded by the public. The opinions are formatted for optimal viewing on a tablet computing device. On a regular desktop or laptop computer screen, opinion text will initially appear oversized but can easily be redisplayed in normal size using the options available in the Adobe Reader software.

A more important change involves the addition of case summaries prepared by court staff. The summaries save time by allowing readers to quickly get the gist of a decision without having to search through the opinion itself. West previously produced the summaries, but for copyright reasons they could not be included with opinions made available online.

“The formatting change reflects the growing use of tablet devices by both the bench and bar,” said Clerk of Court Molly C. Dwyer. “We are continuing to print a limited number of copies for judges who request hard copy. But I think many judges have become quite comfortable using the electronic versions.”

The court expects to save an estimated \$350,000 in the first full year of in-house production of the opinions. The change is one of several cost-containment measures being recommended by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national governing body for the federal judiciary.

Court watchers continue to have the option of signing up to be notified of new opinions via RSS: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/feed/opinions.xml>.

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