



Alameda County
District Attorney's Office
Thomas J. Orloff, District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE & PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALAMEDA COUNTY ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FIRST FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Presentations By:

Diane Stuart, Director of the US Department of Justice,
Office on Violence Against Women

and

Bill Lockyer, Attorney General, State of California

(Oakland – August 26, 2005) – Alameda County invites the media to a press conference celebrating the official Grand Opening of the Alameda County Family Justice Center.

Date: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Alameda County Family Justice Center
470 27th Street, Oakland

Alameda County District Attorney Thomas J. Orloff and Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker will host a Press Conference to officially open the Center. Joining them will be Diane Stuart, Director of the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women; California Attorney General Bill Lockyer; and other dignitaries.

A Revolutionary New Approach to Serving Victims of Domestic Violence

The Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) is a one-stop shop for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and their children. It is a unique partnership between the County of Alameda, City governments, and more than 50 community, non-profit partners who have come together to change, improve and coordinate their response to victims of domestic violence and their children, as well as to victims of sexual assault and elder abuse.

Many key partners in the ACFJC have worked together for years to put Alameda County on the forefront of the struggle to curb domestic violence. Starting in late 2003, they began to shape the vision and build the framework for this new service delivery system, one that puts the needs of victims first. Their work was rewarded in 2004 when the County of Alameda was selected as 1 of only 15 communities in the country to receive a President's Family Justice Center Initiative grant from the Department of Justice. More than 350 communities nationwide competed for this grant award, which provided Alameda County with \$1.3 million to launch this innovative effort.

Key Partners

More than 50 government and community partners have come together to create the ACFJC. County agencies co-located at the ACFJC include the District Attorney's Office (lead agency), Sheriff's Department, Public Health, Probation, Department of Child Support Services and Social Services. City agencies include the City of Oakland and the Oakland Police Department Special Victims Unit. Community partners joining county and city agencies include Children's Hospital and Research Center, D.O.V.E.S. program, the Family Violence Law Center, DeafHope, Bay Area Legal Aid, Bay Area Women Against Rape, Alameda County Medical-Social Services, Building Futures with Women and Children, Family Bridges & Legal Language Access Project, the International Institute of the East Bay, CALICO Center, SAVE, Safe Exchange, Safe Passages, Charles Houston Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Alameda County, Alameda County Chiefs of Police, Sheriff Association, Emergency Shelter Program, A Safe Place, Oakland Private Industry Council, East Bay Community Law Center, Boalt Hall School of Law, Alameda County Medical Center Emergency Department, Planned Parenthood, The Link to Children, Asian Community Mental Health, Reverend Cheryl Elliott of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Narika, and Tri-Valley Haven. Other community agencies are working with the ACFJC.

The Grand Opening will celebrate the innovative approach created by these partners, placing victims and their families first and bringing services to them, rather than expecting victims to navigate multiple agencies and systems at dispersed locations.

There will be lunch and refreshments following the Press Conference, tours of the facility, and an open house.

Interviews and photo opportunities available on request.

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