

Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA



Wynne S. Carvill, Presiding Judge

Chad Finke, Executive Officer

René C. Davidson Courthouse

1225 Fallon Street

Oakland, California 94612



@AlamedaSuperior

www.alameda.courts.ca.gov

**For more information
about this news release,
please contact:**

Executive Office

pcomments@alameda.courts.ca.gov

510-891-6012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of Alameda County announces the upcoming opening of a new branch of its Self-Help Center in Oakland.

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving access to justice, the Superior Court of Alameda County is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of a new branch of its Self-Help Center in the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland. This new branch, which is estimated to open sometime in February 2019, will join the Self-Help Center already in operation at the Hayward Hall of Justice, providing a much-needed alternative to the residents of North County.

Previously the Court was able to offer a Self-Help branch located in the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints required the Court to close that branch in 2016. Now, however, thanks in large part to \$19.1 million in new funding specifically directed toward trial court Self-Help needs in the 2018-2019 California State Budget, the Court is pleased once again to be able to offer the citizens of Alameda County a second Self-Help Center option.

“As part of budget discussions with the Judicial Council and the other branches of government last year, our Court identified the reestablishment of a Self-Help Center presence in Oakland as one of our highest priorities. We appreciate that Governor Brown included robust new Self-Help funding in the 2018-19 budget so that we could make our plan a reality and better serve the court users of Alameda County,” said Hon. Wynne S. Carvill, the Court’s Presiding Judge.

The new branch, located at 661 Washington Street, Oakland, on the 3rd floor of the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse, will be open for walk-in clinic Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To ensure that each customer gets the best possible service, the number of people assisted each day will be capped at 45. Staff in the Oakland branch will provide assistance with unlawful detainers, small claims matters, restraining orders, name and gender change petitions, and guardianships. Assistance for all Family Law related matters, including child custody and dissolution of marriage, will continue to be provided in Hayward only.

To facilitate the opening of the Oakland branch and to ensure a consistent level of service in both North and South County, the Court will make some changes to the functioning of the Hayward branch beginning January 2, 2019. Morning drop-in service in Hayward will be limited to 100 customers per day. In addition, the Center in Hayward will close at 12:00 p.m. every day to ensure that the Court can continue to support its robust schedule of afternoon workshops.

The Court will issue a further press release when the exact date of the grand opening of the Oakland branch has been set. In the months following the opening of the Oakland branch, the Court will be working on additional projects to improve services to self-represented litigants in North County, including reopening the Children's Waiting Room in the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse, expanding the number of workshops offered in Oakland, and continuing to improve services for Non-English and Limited-English Proficient court users.