



## Sacramento Superior Court Civil Settlement Conference

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All Counsel-

As a result of the backlog of civil trials due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Department 59 expanded the Voluntary Settlement Conference (VSC) program in May 2020 to assist litigators and their parties in settling cases that may otherwise be left without a set trial date for an unknown period of time. Our court is cognizant of the intense stress such scheduling uncertainty can create for litigants and litigators alike.

The expanded VSC program will continue under new Supervising Judge David De Alba. All VSC's will be conducted Monday through Friday starting at 9:00 a.m. In-person attendance will not be required, or permitted, for the foreseeable future so all VSC's will be conducted via the videoconferencing application Zoom. Judge De Alba will personally handle all VSC's unless and until the workload makes that impossible, in which case other civil judges may be asked to assist.

Department 59 has prepared a Voluntary Settlement Request Form to be used by all parties wishing to participate in the VSC program. The form will be used to triage cases according to the anticipated length of time required to perform each VSC. The form is now available on the Court's Settlement Conference webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/civil/settlement-conference.aspx>.

VSC's are, by definition, voluntary, so ALL parties must agree to participate in the program for any case to be assigned a VSC date.

We look forward to working with all of you who wish to participate in the VSC program.

Hon. David De Alba, Supervising Judge  
Civil Settlement Center

Dayo Horton, Clerk  
Civil Settlement Center