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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
1035 PALM STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5936**

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**TO:** San Luis Obispo County Bar Association

**FROM:** Hon. Dodie Harman, APJ, Civil Team Leader

**DATE:** August 8, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Designation of Complex Cases  
California Rules of Court, Rule 3.400 – 3.403

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The Court wishes to inform you that effective immediately, the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court will begin reviewing all civil case files for the purpose of identifying those cases that should be designated as a “complex case”. Complex cases must be designated by the plaintiff or defendant or jointly on the Civil Case Cover Sheet as provided by California Rules of Court, Rule 3.401-3.402. The Court is audited by the state for case types and procedures that affect the budget of the court and the allocation of judicial resources. In these tight budgetary times, our Court finds it necessary to more strictly enforce the Rules of Court regarding case types.

Each judge to whom civil cases are assigned shall determine (with or without a hearing) whether or not the case should be designated as complex pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.403. If the matter is designated as complex, and if all parties have not yet paid the complex case fee required by Government Code §26826.4, the Court shall order payment of that fee.

The Court will make every effort to determine whether a case is complex as soon as feasible after a case is filed. The judge assigned to the case has the continuing power, pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.403(b), to decide on its own motion or on noticed motion of any party, that a civil action is a complex case or that an action previously declared to be a complex case is not a complex case.

The Court would appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the lawyers appearing before us in properly designating complex cases.