

FINAL REPORT
CASE #1304 SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
(OFFICE SPACE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR)

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The San Joaquin County District Attorney occupies space on the second, fourth, and fifth floors of the San Joaquin County Court House. The District Attorney does not use the fifth floor space to its full extent only because it is mostly unfurnished. We conducted our investigation to determine why the newly constructed space is not fully furnished.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County has historically provided the District Attorney with the necessary space needed to operate because it is a court-associated agency. The District Attorney employs about 130 staff members spread out on various floors of the Court House. The District Attorney planned to use the fifth floor to provide 50 up-to-date office spaces, but only seventeen of these offices are currently occupied, and they are furnished with leased furniture.

The original plan was designed in 1993. Construction started in 1996 but events caused delays and halted construction several times. Construction was finally completed in November of 2003.

The initial plan for the office space evolved over the years to account for different floor designs, materials, security needs, public access, and other unforeseen problems. The original plan did not include the purchase of new furniture because they intended to use the furniture on the second floor to furnish the fifth floor. The furniture on the second floor is now outdated and is not appropriate for today's office environment because it was not designed to include computer workstations.

The District Attorney has informed the Grand Jury that the normal process to obtain furniture is as follows . . .

1. The District Attorney submits a request for furniture to the Facilities Management Department.
2. The Facilities Management Department analyzes the request, making recommendations as needed, and submits the information to the County Administrator.
3. The County Administrator submits the request with a cost analysis to the County Board of Supervisors with recommendations to approve or disapprove the request.
4. The Board of Supervisors vote to approve or disapprove the request for funding.

The District Attorney has followed this process the past three years. The County Administrator has recommended against the District Attorney's request to furnish the fifth floor for the 2003-2004 budget and again for the 2004-2005 budget. The County Board of Supervisors voted, and the request was denied on both occasions.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

The 2004-2005 Grand Jury has toured the District Attorney office space on the second, fourth, and fifth floors several times and visited the warehouse at the Stockton Airport where the old furniture is stored.

The Grand Jury has reviewed documents including requests for furniture and recommendations, for and against, furnishing the fifth floor.

The Grand Jury interviewed . . .

- County Administrator, Manuel Lopez
- Director of Facilities Management, Craig Ogata
- Management Services Administrator for the District Attorney's Office, Harold Crosby
- District Attorney, Jim Willett

FINDINGS:

The 2004-2005 Grand Jury finds the following...

1. The District Attorney is not using all of the office spaces on the newly constructed fifth floor simply because the offices are unfurnished.
2. The office space on the second floor is in poor condition and the configuration is unsuitable for today's office environment. The carpet is dingy, and the furniture is outdated and unsuitable for computer workstations.
3. The District Attorney is currently operating in limited space. Even closets have been converted into small offices.
4. Construction of the fifth floor is not truly complete until it has been furnished.
5. The furniture and computers stored in the warehouse at the Stockton Airport are of little value to the county.
6. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the request for furniture on May 3, 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The 2004-2005 Grand Jury recommends that San Joaquin County dispose of all worthless furniture, computers, and other equipment stored at the warehouse at the Stockton Airport.
2. The 2004-2005 Grand Jury recommends that the County continue to support the District Attorney's Office by adequately furnishing the fifth floor and make the best use of the County's investment.

RESPONSE REQUIRED:

Pursuant to Section 933.05 of the Penal Code:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors shall report to the Presiding Judge of the San Joaquin Superior Court, in writing and within 90 days of publication of this report, with a response as follows:

As to each finding in the report a response indicating one of the following:

- a. The respondent agrees with the finding.
- b. The respondent disagrees with the finding, with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

As to each recommendation, a response indicating one of the following:

- a. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary of the action taken.
- b. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be with a time frame for implementation.
- c. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation of the scope of the analysis and a time frame not to exceed (6) six months.
- d. The recommendation will not be implemented, with an explanation therefore.