

The Superior Court COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN 222 E. WEBER AVENUE, ROOM 303 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202 www.sjcourts.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, July 24, 2014

SUPERIOR COURT AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE SMALL CLAIMS AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC

The San Joaquin Superior Court and San Joaquin County Bar Foundation are pleased to announce that small claims and alternative dispute resolution services will be provided by Dispute Resolution Services of the San Joaquin County Bar Foundation (DRS). Beginning July 28, 2014, DRS will provide the following services to the public:

- <u>Small Claims Clinics</u>—Certified law students or attorneys will be available to answer the public's questions, on a one-on-one basis regarding small claims. Services are free.
 - First Thursday of each month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Location: Margaret K. Troke Library
 502 W Benjamin Holt, Stockton, California, 95207
 (Please note: this clinic starts on September 4, 2014)
 - ❖ Third Tuesday of each month, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Location: Downtown Stockton at the San Joaquin Law Library 20 N. Sutter Street, Stockton, California, 95202
- <u>Small Claims Advisory Line</u>—The public can call (209) 473-6463 at any time of the day to receive information regarding Small Claims Court forms and procedures, as well as referrals to other community resources. Trained advisory staff will respond to inquiries by telephone or email.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Services—Same day, in court mediation services with trained mediators will be available for parties of small claims, civil harassment, and unlawful detainer cases in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Programs Act of 1986. The program is voluntary and will be low- or no-cost to the community.

All members of the public are encouraged to use the services provided by DRS. In the near future, DRS intends on offering refresher training opportunities for volunteer mediators. For more information about the services available and training opportunities, call (209) 474-8794 or visit http://disputeresolution.sjcbar.org.