

## CCN Transcript: 4th DCA Dedication – scripted 2/2/10

For 20 years, this was home for the Court of Appeal, 4th District, Division 3 in Santa Ana. A rented wood frame building that was way too small – supplemented with some rented office space almost a mile away.

The brand new building is the first courthouse constructed under the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Completed in September, 2009, it's a flexible design with room for expansion.

On this day, the court met in special session under a tent in the parking lot.

Kevin Stinson, 4th DCA Administrator *“Good afternoon and welcome to the new courthouse dedication ceremony.”*

Almost 400 people joined the celebration, including the mayor of Santa Ana. The city donated the land, prepared the site, and built a parking structure – saving the court millions of dollars.

Hon. Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana Mayor *“I think it is important for society to have courthouses that measure up to the importance of the work that's being conducted within them.”*

The Administrative Director of the Courts in California said this project represents noteworthy achievement.

Bill Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts *“During a time when I think people are increasingly cynical about our government, with a sense that perhaps every issue is out of control, that nobody and no institution can make a difference, the completion of this facility symbolizes and demonstrates that that clearly is not true. A few individuals who are willing to take the initiative and provide leadership can make a huge difference in what takes place.”*

The Chief Justice reported that the court's statewide building and renovation program is moving forward, with a long range view of progress for California's future.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California *“We all recognize that these facilities are just as much a part of California's infrastructure as its bridges and highways. :06 Those in the legislature and the executive and the judicial branch also recognize that the projects would bring jobs, estimated at 105,000 jobs that will be created along with welcome relief to dozens of communities during the worst economic downturn we've had in 70 years.”*

And these days, courthouses can be built economically, like this one was.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California *“As a result of being completed under budget, we expect to return several hundred thousand dollars to the state's general fund. How often does that happen? We do not want or need palaces. We require only solid, safe, and efficient buildings to do the court's business.”*

Guests were treated to a tour of the inside of the courthouse. The lobby features a display of student artwork representing significant cases; a project created by Justice Eileen Moore in partnership with local schools.

The 3-story building includes 52,000 square feet of secure space; a courtroom, a settlement conference center, law library, and workspace for staff; and office suites for 9 justices. Nothing fancy; they even brought over their old furniture, bookcases and some of the light fixtures. But it all looks just fine.

Hon. Richard Aronson, Associate Justice 4th DCA *“I just thought it would be a government building and I can’t tell you how pleased I am; I was surprised. Yeah, I like it.”*

Most important, the building is safe, efficient, economical, and designed to last for 50 to 100 years.

I’m Leanne Kozak reporting in Santa Ana for California Courts News.