[ms-0398.022.010.004]

THE MUNICIPAL COURT
OF THE SAN DIEGO JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HONORABLE PATRICIA A.Y. COWETT
PRESIDING JUDGE

PRESIDING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-3877
(619) 531-3019 OFFICE
(619) 236-3572 FAX

September 16, 1991

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Ans'd.....

Honorable Leon L. Williams
Fourth District Supervisor
Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

The judges of the San Diego Municipal Court have asked that I inform you of our concern about contracting for custodial services in the County Courthouse. It is our understanding that current custodians who are County employees will be terminated in favor of contracting for services at a reduced cost.

The concern of our bench is that any contract custodians must undergo security clearances before being allowed to work in the Courthouse. This requirement is necessitated because of the thousands of criminal and civil records that are stored in the Courthouse. Trial exhibits are frequently left in the courtrooms during trials and cannot be disturbed. Custodians also need to know not to enter jury deliberation rooms at any time a jury is deliberating. Entry of a custodian in a jury deliberation room could have damaging results with the trial.

We are aware of the sensitive and difficult nature of your decisions concerning reducing the cost of government to meet budget limitations. We ask only that any custodial contractor be required to undergo security clearances of all persons entering the Courthouse and that our additional requirements concerning not disturbing exhibits and jury deliberation rooms be clearly stated.

Thank you for your continuing assistance to and concern for our Court.

PATRICIA A. Y. COWETT, Presiding Judge
San Diego Municipal Court

PAYC:jms

cc: The Hon. Judith McConnell, Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
Norman W. Hickey, Chief Administrative Officer
David E. Janssen, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Jane F. Huston, Director, Department of General Services