

news ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release:
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Judge to Hold Hearing on Eliminating L. A. County Jail Overcrowding Monday

LOS ANGELES - Less than six weeks after U.S. District Judge Dean D. Pregerson granted a temporary restraining order to end overcrowding in the county jail system's central processing hub, the ACLU of Southern California will be in back in court Monday to expose loopholes the county has used to circumvent the order.

In legal papers filed earlier this week, the ACLU/SC is seeking a preliminary injunction to ensure inmates are not packed into cells without access to regular food, water, beds, or even blankets. "Tragically, the manner in which the County has implemented the TRO has subverted its intent and purpose. While for the most part appearing to be in technical compliance with the order, the County has excavated loopholes that continue to work great hardship on inmates and detainees," the papers in the three-decades-old jails-condition lawsuit, *Rutherford v. Baca*, said.

As a result inmates are held in medical areas, which are exempt from the temporary restraining order, and scores of inmates are shuffled daily for weeks at a time between the Inmate Reception Center and holding cells at the jails facilities without ever being assigned regular housing.

"What we have observed indisputably violates the spirit and intent of the judge's orders," said ACLU/SC staff attorney Melinda Bird.

When: 11 a.m.
Monday, December 11, 2006

Where: Courtroom of Judge Dean D. Pregerson
Courtroom 3, Second Floor
312 N. Spring St., Los Angeles

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