

COUNTY PREVAILS IN 911 DISPATCH LAWSUIT

MARCH 2009

Cota Cole & Associates attorneys Derek Cole and Carolyn Frank successfully represented San Joaquin County in a lawsuit seeking to compel the City of Stockton to comply with dispatch policies adopted by the County's Emergency Medical Services Agency. Following a two-week bench trial, Stanislaus Superior Court Judge David VanderWall ruled in favor of the County, ordering the City's Fire Department to begin transferring all 911 medical calls to a single, countywide dispatch center. Following the award of an exclusive contract to a dispatch provider in 2005, the City had refused to transfer such calls, claiming that it had a "grandfathered" right to continue dispatching them. The court disagreed, and also found that the City waived any grandfathered right it may have had by participating in the nearly three-year competitive bidding process preceding adoption of the dispatch policies.