

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102-3688

**Report**

TO: Members of the Judicial Council

FROM: Kleps Awards Committee  
Hon. Ronald B. Robie, Chair  
Deirdre Benedict, Analyst, Executive Office Programs Division,  
415-865-8915

DATE: April 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Ralph N. Kleps Awards for 2008–2009 (Action Required)

Issue Statement

The Judicial Council biennially approves the court programs selected by the Kleps Awards Committee to receive the Ralph N. Kleps Awards for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts. Prior to 2005, these awards were approved by the Judicial Council annually.

Recommendation

The Kleps Awards Committee recommends that the council approve the following programs as recipients of the Ralph N. Kleps Awards for 2008–2009.

*Category 1 (courts with 2 to 10 authorized judicial positions (AJPs))*

**Superior Court of California, County of Amador**

***Online Procedural Manual.*** A web based collection of job aides that outline court procedures for virtually any court process and includes links to applicable rules and forms. Facilitates the dissemination of accurate and consistent information both to the public and within the court and is particularly useful in a small court where clerks are called upon to work outside their subject matter area on a regular basis.

*Category 2 (courts with 11 to 39 AJPs)*

**Superior Court of California, County of Imperial**

***Binational Justice Project.*** A binational collaborative network with justice partners from Mexico that provides free-legal services to self represented litigants, public education, community outreach, and an internship program for Mexican law school students.

*Category 2 (courts with 11 to 39 AJPs) (cont'd)*

**Superior Court of California, County of Monterey**

***Self-Help Online Workshop Registration.*** An online module that allows the public to register for Self-Help Center workshops and make appointments for individualized document review, eliminating an unnecessary trip to the courthouse for residents of this geographically expansive county and automates the process for court staff.

**Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo**

***Multi-Option Appropriate Dispute Resolution Project—“MAP”.*** A broad array of dispute resolution options and educational outreach in family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, small claims, probate, complex litigation, and civil calendars, brought together under one roof and conducted in partnership with the local bar and community mediation center.

*Category 3 (courts with 40-plus AJPs)*

**Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa**

***Online Probable Cause.*** A computer application that allows a judge on magistrate duty the ability to approve/deny probable cause declarations in real time from any internet connection. Significantly improves communication with arresting officers, expedites probable cause response, and improves the efficient processing of judicial workload.

**Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles**

***Online Juror Orientation.*** A fully customized and interactive on-line program that offers the 10,000 individuals called to jury duty daily in this populous county an opportunity to complete jury orientation at their convenience and report later on their first day of service. Accommodates the schedules and personal demands of prospective jurors and helps to streamline the existing process of “live” orientation in a way that increases the effectuality of court staff.

**Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara**

***Giving Families a Chance: The Collaboration between Family Court Services and FIRST 5***

Aimed at children under the age of 6 and their families, this program addresses the common underlying problems which create unnecessary litigation. Participating families are given priority access to an extensive network of county social services, community support, and pro bono legal services with the Court serving as the hub and entry point.

*Category 4 (appellate courts)*

**Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District**

***Appellate Self Help Clinic.*** A free self-help center that provides self-represented civil litigants a better understanding of the Appellate Court's practices and procedures and offers an opportunity for paperwork review prior to filing, assistance filling out court forms, and information about procedures, filings and deadlines moving through the appellate process.

*Category 5 (collaborative projects)*

**No recommendations**