

**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

DATE: March 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Ralph N. Kleps Awards for 2006–2007 (Action Required)

Issue Statement

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

Recommendation

The Kleps Awards Committee will deliver its recommendations to the Judicial Council at the April 27, 2007, meeting, due to the confidential nature of the recommendations.

Rationale for Recommendation

This is the 16th time the Judicial Council will present the awards that were created in honor of Ralph N. Kleps, the first administrative director of the California courts. The purpose of the Ralph N. Kleps Award is to recognize and honor the contributions made by individual courts in California to the administration of justice.

The criteria for the award include improvements in the administration of the courts that reflect innovation, fulfillment of the intent of at least one goal of the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan, and transferability to other courts. Projects must have been in operation long enough to have shown measurable impact.

Nomination materials were made available to the courts on May 15, 2006, with a submission deadline of August 15, 2006. Courts submitted nominations in one of five categories: three based on court size as defined by authorized judicial position equivalents (AJPs), a fourth category for the appellate courts, and a fifth category for

collaborative projects submitted by two or more courts. A total of 36 eligible nominations were received.

After reviewing each of the 36 nominations, the full committee determined that 27 of the nominations successfully met criteria outlined in the nomination materials. Committee members then made site visits to those 27 applicants to see the programs in action and learn more from the program staff and judicial officers involved in the programs. Immediately after the site visit, committee members scored each program and submitted a consensus score and evaluation form to staff.

The full committee will meet on April 24 to evaluate all nominees relative to respective nominations within each category. Programs that most clearly meet the nomination criteria—most significantly, improvements in the administration of the courts that reflect innovation, fulfillment of the intent of at least one goal of the Judicial Council’s Strategic Plan, and transferability to other courts—will be recommended by the committee as the recipients of the 2006–07 Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in Judicial Administration. Those recommendations will be presented to the Judicial Council for its adoption at the April 27, 2007, meeting.

The Kleps Awards Committee serves as the jury for the award. Members include a diverse group of court representatives, including members of the bench and court staff. Justice Ronald B. Robie, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, chairs this year’s committee, while Mr. Michael D. Planet, Superior Court of Ventura County, serves as vice-chair. Members include Mr. James Brighton, Superior Court of Alameda County, Ms. Tina M. Burkhart, Superior Court of Glenn County, Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Superior Court of Stanislaus County, Ms. Lisa M. Galdos, Superior Court of Monterey County, Mr. Michael Glisson, Superior Court of Nevada County, Justice Brad R. Hill, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, Hon. Mary Thornton House, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, Ms. Marilyn K. James, Superior Court of San Diego County, Mr. Stephen M. Kelly, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Hon. Cynthia Ludvigsen, Superior Court of San Bernardino County, Mr. Lawrence Maligie, Superior Court of Butte County, Hon. Robert H. Oliver, Superior Court of Fresno County, Hon. Donna M. Petre, Superior Court of Yolo County, Ms. Sylvia White-Irby, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and Hon. Erica R. Yew, Superior Court of Santa Clara County.

Alternative Actions Considered

Not applicable.

Comments From Interested Parties

Not applicable.

### Implementation Requirements and Costs

The awards will be presented at the 2007 Judicial Branch Statewide Conference on September 27, 2007. Each winning court will be invited to participate in an educational panel at the conference in an effort to leverage the benefits of the successful courts programs and to share experiences with court colleagues. Summary descriptions of the nominated projects will be included in publications. Many of the projects will also be featured on *Court News Online* throughout the year, to enable the courts to learn more about innovations around the state.

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**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 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Ralph N. Kleps Awards for 2006–2007 (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. Before 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 2006–2007.

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

**Superior Court of California, County of Napa**

***Help Court and Community Referral System.*** A comprehensive, easy-to-use, public access database of community services that enables the court to expeditiously refer families and individuals to those services.

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

**Superior Court of California, County of Butte**

***Court Clerk Career Progression Opportunity Program (3C-P-O).*** A self-directed program that allows deputy court clerks to promote to the advanced-journey level through a structured certification process.

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

***Court Case Information Web Application—Justice Partner Access Web Site (JPAW).*** A case management system providing criminal case information for county justice system partners, attorneys, and the public.

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

**Superior Court of California, County of Fresno**

***ACTION (After Criminal Traffic Infraction One-Stop Network) Center.*** A centralized location providing immediate, postsentencing assistance to offenders in interpreting court orders, obtaining necessary referrals, and setting up and making payments.

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

***JusticeCorps.*** A collaborative effort by the court, local colleges, and legal aid organization to recruit and train 100 students to perform a year of community service by assisting self-represented litigants throughout the legal process in unlawful detainer, family law, and small claims cases.

*Category 4 (appellate courts)*

**Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District**

***Judicial Extern Program.*** A comprehensive education program that benefits both the court and the externs by providing intensive background about trial and appellate court proceedings.

*Category 5 (collaborative projects)*

**Superior Courts of California, Counties of Butte and Glenn**

***Collaborative Information Services (IS) Project.*** An intercounty information services collaboration that allows a small court to have access to the technical resources and support of a large court.

**Superior Courts of California, Counties of Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra**

***Four-Court Regional Appellate Division.*** An appellate division merged from four courts that provides improved efficiency in processing and hearing limited jurisdiction cases, misdemeanor infractions, and traffic court appeals.

**Superior Courts of California, Counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey**

***Regional Court and Library Partnership.*** A collaboration among the superior courts and public libraries in the four counties to help librarians better serve the public by training librarians in the use of courts' Web sites and other online legal resources and educating them about the availability of courts' self-help programs and family law facilitators.