



**Judicial Council of California**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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## MEMORANDUM

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Action Requested</b>
December 1, 2006	None; For Your Information
<b>To</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Members of the Judicial Council	N/A
<b>From</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Hon. Ronald M. George Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council	N/A
<b>Subject</b>	
Chief Justice's Report: Since the October 20, 2006, Meeting	

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### **Interbranch Relations/Advocacy**

At a meeting with President pro Tempore of the Senate Don Perata and a subsequent phone call with Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, both leaders were supportive of wanting to play an active role in advancing the judicial branch's legislative agenda. *A December 4 meeting is scheduled with the Governor for further discussion of these issues.*

### **Justice System Partners Outreach**

#### **Regional Outreach Program**

On October 30, I participated in the third of three regional outreach programs to justice system partners to review court reforms of the past decade and discuss key challenges and issues confronting the judicial branch. More than 150 court leaders and justice system partners from Southern California attended the town hall-style meeting. The meeting was hosted at the Superior Court of Los Angeles County with the support of Presiding Judge William MacLaughlin, Presiding Judge-Elect Stephen Czuleger, and Executive Officer Jack Clarke. Justice system partners included the State Bar of California, California Women Lawyers,

Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Mexican American Bar Association, the offices of the Los Angeles County public defender, district attorney, sheriff, and probation department, and law school representatives. Topics included the public's trust and confidence in the courts, long-range strategic planning, and ways to strengthen the justice system.

### **Additional Outreach**

Additional speaking engagements afforded welcome opportunities to address justice system partners on issues of mutual interest and concern as well as to acknowledge the valuable contributions of these different entities to California's justice system. Engagements during the past six weeks have included the **Women Lawyers of Sacramento**; the **Consumer Attorneys Association**; the **San Diego Bar**; and the **Central California Legal Services**, a non-profit law firm providing free legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in the following counties: Fresno, Kings, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, and Tuolumne. (The Fresno visit also allowed for a site tour of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District's new facility, to be completed in 2007.)

### **Meetings with Court Leaders**

#### **Presiding Judges Orientation and Court Management Program**

I had the pleasure of addressing participants at the annual educational program for presiding judges-elect, assistant presiding judges-elect and their court executive officers. This program offers a unique opportunity for court executive teams to meet together to learn about and reflect upon their individual and collective administrative, governance, and leadership responsibilities. Based on a curriculum developed by a CJER education committee of experienced presiding judges and court executive officers, the program includes leadership seminars on topics ranging from the statutory duties and ethical responsibilities of court leaders and court resources management to judicial branch relationships and the mentoring roles of court leaders. Seventy-seven judges and court executive officers took part in this year's program.

#### **San Diego Court Visits**

At the invitation of the San Diego courts, and accompanied by AOC Regional Administrative Director Sheila Calabro, I met with judicial officers of the trial and appellate courts and addressed approximately 100 members of the San Diego trial court's management team.

#### **Judicial Leaders Summit**

I have received very positive feedback on the November summit focusing on the major issues of disaster planning and recovery for our courts, and judicial election reform and the national struggle to maintain fair and impartial courts in the face of political and special interest attacks

against the judiciary. In early 2007, four Judicial Council task forces will be appointed with responsibility to review potential strategies relating to issues identified and discussed at the summit. The task forces will submit final reports to a Steering Committee to Safeguard Judicial Independence. This committee will review all potential strategies to address these challenges and present their resulting recommendations regarding possible action by the Judicial Council.

### **Judicial Elections**

Nationally, it was encouraging to note the voters' response on initiatives and propositions impacting state court systems, in particular, the sound defeat by an 89 percent margin of the South Dakota Jail4Judges measure, and also the defeat of the proposed Colorado amendment, which would have imposed 10- year service limits on judicial officers of the Colorado Court of Appeals and Supreme Court and resulted in the removal of all but two justices of the Supreme Court within two years.

### **Judicial Protection**

Finally, I had an opportunity to address the members of the Appellate Court Security Committee, led by Justice Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, and the leadership of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) at the 10th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the CHP Judicial Protection Section serving the justices of the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

RMG/tc