



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Resolution

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE COMPLEX CIVIL LITIGATION PROGRAM AND
HONORING THE PARTICIPATING COURTS

Whereas, it is the mission of the Judicial Council to ensure the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in California;

Whereas, the demands of complex litigation and unpredictable decisions in complex commercial disputes were of increasing concern to litigants, the bar, and the courts;

Whereas, Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed the Complex Civil Litigation Task Force in 1997 to study and make recommendations for ways to help trial courts manage complex civil litigation more efficiently and effectively;

Whereas, the Complex Civil Litigation Task Force concluded that

- Early intervention is the linchpin to effectively managing complex cases;
- Complex cases are unusual and require much greater management than other civil cases;
- Complex case management principles must be applied as soon as possible after a case is filed;
- A complex case should be assigned to one judge for all purposes; and
- Complex cases require “exceptional judicial management to avoid placing unnecessary burdens on the court or the litigants and to expedite the case, keep costs reasonable, and promote effective decision making by the court, the parties, and counsel.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.400.)

Whereas, based on the task force recommendations, the Judicial Council established six centers for complex litigation in the Superior Courts of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, San Francisco, and Santa Clara Counties;

Whereas, the Judicial Council has identified the Complex Civil Litigation Program as a statewide priority and each year approved the allocation of special fund monies for court system projects and programs to the six program courts;

Whereas, under the leadership of Complex Civil Litigation Task Force Chair Justice Richard D. Aldrich, the task force recommended that the Judicial Council receive and publish the *Deskbook on the Management of Complex Civil Litigation*;

Whereas, Complex Civil Litigation Program judges have the training, experience, interest, and ability to successfully manage complex cases and to share their knowledge with other judges handling complex cases;

Whereas, funds approved and allocated by the Judicial Council have allowed courts to provide additional research attorneys and courtroom staff dedicated to improving the management of complex cases;

Whereas, the efforts and expertise of judges and staff dedicated to the Complex Civil Litigation Program have resulted in the effective resolution of thousands of complex cases and reduced the time to resolution for many of them;

Whereas, the success of the Complex Civil Litigation Program has been demonstrated;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Judicial Council of California recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Complex Civil Litigation Program and honors the judges, staff, and participating courts for their contributions in ensuring access to justice for all Californians.

We have hereunto set our hands this 23rd day of April, 2010

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council of California

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts