



## Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: February 25, 2011

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Court Facilities: Naming the New Courthouse in Long Beach	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	February 25, 2011
Recommended by	Date of Report
Executive and Planning Committee	January 19, 2011
Hon. Richard D. Huffman, Chair	Contact
	Kelly Quinn, 818-558-3078
	<a href="mailto:kelly.quinn@jud.ca.gov">kelly.quinn@jud.ca.gov</a>

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### Executive Summary

The Executive and Planning Committee recommends naming the proposed new trial courthouse to be constructed in the City of Long Beach in honor of former Governor George Deukmejian.

### Recommendation

The Executive and Planning Committee recommends the council name the proposed new courthouse in Long Beach as follows:

Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

### Previous Council Action

On the council's behalf, the Executive and Planning Committee adopted the attached Courthouse Naming Policy (the naming policy) in May 2009.<sup>1</sup> The council's naming standards apply to

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<sup>1</sup> The naming policy was adopted on an interim basis. The Administrative Director of the Courts was asked to report to the council by December 2011 on the implementation of this policy and to make further recommendations on the policy at that time.

renovated and newly constructed courthouses that the council has financed, in whole or in part, where the judicial branch is the facility owner or majority tenant. These standards are listed in section III.B. Naming Standards for Trial and Appellate Courthouses of the attached policy, and the process by which courthouses are named appears in section III.C. Process for Naming Courthouses.

Because the Court Facilities Working Group is not yet established, the Executive and Planning Committee, which has responsibility for facilities issues, requests that the council adopt the recommendation stated in this report.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The new courthouse in the City of Long Beach will be a landmark building in downtown and throughout the city and is scheduled to be the first new state-funded courthouse completed in Los Angeles County. The courthouse replaces the existing deficient courthouse with a new 31-courtroom facility. The naming policy provides that a living person may be considered for the name of a courthouse only if specific criteria have been met, as listed in section III.B.2.c of the attached *Courthouse Naming Policy*. In this instance, Governor Deukmejian's professional accomplishments and current volunteer activities conform to the criteria. These criteria are listed below with a confirmation of how the former governor's accomplishments satisfy each one.

In accordance with the policy, naming a courthouse after a living person may be considered only if all of the following criteria are met:

- i. The person has made recognizable, significant contributions to the state or national judicial system.*

George Deukmejian, a resident of Long Beach since 1955, has had a long career as an elected official in the State Assembly, State Senate, and as attorney general and governor of California. After a short period of private law practice in Long Beach, he was elected to represent the city in the California State Assembly in 1962. In 1966, he became a state senator, and by 1969, he was the majority leader in the State Senate. He won the election for state attorney general in 1978 and served from 1979 to 1983. In 1982, he was elected to his first of two terms as governor of California, serving from 1983 to 1991. Since his retirement from practicing law in 2000, he has remained active in service to public interests around his community and the State of California.

During his tenure in the Legislature, Governor Deukmejian authored or sponsored more than 30 bills related to courts and the judicial system, including those pertaining to the youth authority, appointment of judges, and bail. As attorney general, he drafted more than 500 opinions, many on court-related subjects, including judges' retirement benefits, judicial discipline, division of judicial districts, and filling judicial vacancies.

While serving as California's 35th governor, Governor Deukmejian signed Senate Bill 241, the Willie L. Brown, Jr.-Bill Lockyer Civil Liability Reform Act of 1987, into law. The bill improved various aspects of the California tort system and had a national impact. Showing his

concern for access to justice, Governor Deukmejian spoke out against limitations on access to the courts. He also signed the Trial Court Delay Reduction Act of 1986, approved legislation creating the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program in California, and appointed more than 1,000 trial judges and eight justices of the Supreme Court.

After leaving office in 1991, Mr. Deukmejian returned to private law practice and was a partner at Sidley & Austin, a national and international law firm, from 1991 until his retirement in 2000. He has remained engaged in public life by serving on special committees, including one to reform the California penal system, a charter reform committee in his hometown of Long Beach, and a revamping of the UCLA Willd Body Program after a scandal involving the sale of human body parts donated for science. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from California State University, Long Beach in 2008 for his support of education, state law, and Long Beach.

*ii. The person is neither actively practicing law nor affiliated with a law firm, law-related business (e.g., legal publisher, dispute resolution firm), or other for-profit business entity.*

Governor Deukmejian has been retired since 2000 and is not actively practicing law nor affiliated with a law firm, a law-related business, or any other for-profit business entity.

*iii. The person does not have any case pending before a California trial or appellate court or a federal court and is not reasonably likely to come before those courts in future litigation.*

Governor Deukmejian does not have any case pending before a California trial or appellate court nor a federal court, nor it is likely that he would be involved in litigation before those courts in the future.

*iv. The naming does not present a potential conflict of interest as may be viewed by the public, government entities, or private businesses.*

Governor Deukmejian's career is defined by almost 30 years in public service as an elected official. Since his retirement from the practice of law in 2000, his activities have reflected his continuing interest in public service, particularly his work serving on or leading special committees related to local and statewide public interest, but none could be construed by any reasonable measure as a conflict of interest with the naming of a courthouse.

*v. Consistency with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.*

The recommended naming of the new courthouse in Long Beach after Governor George Deukmejian is consistent with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

## **Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications**

As indicated in the attached letters of support, elected state, county, and local officials endorse naming the new courthouse after the former governor. Naming the proposed new Long Beach courthouse in honor of Governor George Deukmejian recognizes a broadly respected Long Beach resident with a long and distinguished career in public service and significant contributions to the California judicial branch.

In accordance with the standard naming preference established in the naming policy, the new courthouse can be alternatively named “New Long Beach Courthouse” or “New Long Beach Criminal and Civil Courthouse.”

## **Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts**

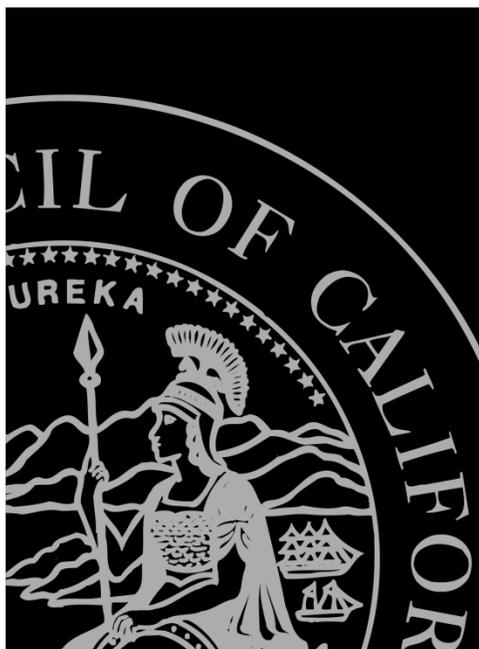
No incremental costs will be incurred to incorporate the recommended name into the design of the proposed new courthouse.

## **Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives**

The recommended council action supports Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence.

## **Attachments**

1. Courthouse Naming Policy, May 2009
2. Letters of support for naming proposed new Long Beach courthouse in honor of George Deukmejian:  
August 4, 2009, letter from Don Knabe, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County  
October 27, 2010, letter from Justice Arthur G. Scotland, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District



# Courthouse Naming Policy

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ADOPTED: MAY 11, 2009



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

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OFFICE OF COURT CONSTRUCTION  
AND MANAGEMENT

## **I. Purpose of the Policy**

The Judicial Council is responsible for California's courthouses under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 and related legislation, which includes responsibility for construction of new courthouses and renovation of existing courthouses. It is the policy of the Judicial Council, acting through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to name courthouses based on standards so there is consistency in identifying courthouses in California.

The AOC will follow the standards set forth in this policy in naming existing courthouses—including court facilities that are renovated—and new courthouses.

## **II. Application of Courthouse Naming Standards**

The AOC will apply the Judicial Council's naming standards to renovated and newly constructed courthouses that the council has financed, in whole or in part, where the judicial branch is the facility owner or majority tenant. These standards also will apply to existing courthouses.

## **III. Names for Trial and Appellate Courthouses**

### **A. Definitions**

*Court facility* refers to any building that the local court occupies to provide its main services, its branch services, or other services and operations. As used in this policy, the word *courthouse* is considered interchangeable with this term.

*Court Facilities Working Group* is an advisory body to the Administrative Director of the Courts on facilities-related matters. The members of this working group are appointed by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

*Subcommittee on Courthouse Names* (the subcommittee) is the subcommittee of the Court Facilities Working Group charged with responsibility to review and consider options in naming specific existing and new courthouses. The members of the subcommittee are appointed by the Administrative Director of the Courts. Its membership will comprise the following: two members of the State Bar of California, a retired superior court judge, a retired appellate court justice, a superior court judge, and an appellate court justice. The subcommittee is responsible for recommending to the Administrative Director of the Courts names for courthouses and in doing so may consider comments from members of the Court Facilities Working Group. The subcommittee's operating protocols, including the term of each member, will be established by the Court Facilities Working Group.

*Case type* can include but is not limited to the following caseload identifiers: family law, juvenile, criminal, civil, traffic, probate, small claims, mental health, and drug.

*Location* of a court facility refers to the building's physical location in either an incorporated (i.e., town or city) or unincorporated (i.e., county or region) geographical area.

**B. Naming Standards for Trial and Appellate Courthouses**

1. Courthouses will be named based on one of the following three categories:
  - a. Location and case type, which is the category most commonly used;
  - b. Deceased person, which is a rarely used category; or
  - c. Living person, which is a category that is very rarely used and only in exceptional circumstances.

A courthouse name will not include the name of any business entity, institution, foundation, or other organization, whether for profit or not for profit.

2. An explanation of each of category follows. For all name categories, the courthouse name must include “Superior Court” or “Court of Appeal” and “California.” In each case, the building name may include the term “Courthouse,” “Justice Center,” or “Hall of Justice.”
  - a. Naming Preference 1: Location and Case Type (Most Commonly Used). It is the preference of the Judicial Council to name courthouses after their location and, if applicable, case type. This convention supports the Judicial Council goal of enhancing access to justice because naming courthouses after the location and case type provides users with key information about where the courthouse is located and the type of proceedings conducted within the courthouse.

Examples of courthouse names under the preferred naming standard for trial courts are as follows:

<b>Format Examples</b>	<b>Courthouses</b>	<b>Justice Centers</b>	<b>Halls of Justice</b>
<b>Example 1</b>	El Centro Family Courthouse Superior Court of California County of Imperial	Selma Regional Justice Center Superior Court of California County of Fresno	East County Hall of Justice Superior Court of California County of Alameda
<b>Example 2</b>	El Centro Family Courthouse Superior Court of California Imperial County	Selma Regional Justice Center Superior Court of California Fresno County	East County Hall of Justice Superior Court of California Alameda County
<b>Example 3</b>	California Superior Court El Centro Family Courthouse Imperial County	California Superior Court Selma Regional Justice Center Fresno County	California Superior Court East County Hall of Justice Alameda County
<b>Example 4</b>	El Centro Family Courthouse California Superior Court Imperial County	Selma Regional Justice Center California Superior Court Fresno County	East County Hall of Justice California Superior Court Alameda County

Examples of courthouse names under the preferred naming standard for appellate courts are as follows:

<b>Format Examples</b>	<b>Appellate Courthouse Names</b>
<b>Example 1</b>	State of California Court of Appeal First Appellate District Courthouse
<b>Example 2</b>	California Court of Appeal Fourth Appellate District Division Three
<b>Example 3</b>	State of California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District

b. Naming Preference 2: Deceased Person (Rarely Used). Naming a courthouse after a deceased person must be carefully considered to protect the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. A courthouse may be named after a deceased person based on *all* the following criteria:

- i. The person made significant contributions to the state or national justice system;
- ii. The person has been deceased for at least 10 years, so as to better ensure that the person’s legacy is an example of the values of the justice system; and
- iii. Consistency with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

Examples of deceased persons who meet these criteria may include a former president of a state or local bar association, a trial court judge, an appellate court justice, or a state or federal legislator.

c. Naming Preference 3: Living Person (Very Rarely Used). Naming a courthouse after a living person requires review and analysis of several criteria to maintain the public’s confidence in a fair and impartial court system and to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Naming a courthouse after a living person may be considered only if *all* of the following criteria are met:

- i. The person has made recognizable, significant contributions to the state or national judicial system;
- ii. The person is neither actively practicing law nor affiliated with a law firm, law-related business (e.g., legal publisher, dispute resolution firm), or other for profit business entity;
- iii. The person does not have any case pending before a California trial or appellate court or a federal court and is not reasonably likely to come before those courts in future litigation;

- iv. The naming does not present a potential conflict of interest as may be viewed by the public, government entities, or private businesses; and
- v. Consistency with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

Examples of living persons who may meet these criteria may include a former Governor of California or a former Chief Justice of the California or United States Supreme Court.

### **C. Process for Naming Courthouses**

Courthouses will be named by the following process:

1. The AOC will collaborate with the local court, justice partners, and governmental entities to establish recommendations to the Court Facilities Working Group for its review and consideration based on this policy.
2. The Court Facilities Working Group's Subcommittee on Courthouse Names will evaluate each proposed name under the standards set forth in this policy.
3. The Subcommittee on Courthouse Names will recommend a preferred courthouse name to the Administrative Director of the Courts.
4. The Administrative Director of the Courts will present a recommendation on the name of a courthouse to the Judicial Council, which presentation will include the subcommittee's recommendation.



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**DON KNABE**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

August 4, 2009

Mr. Kenneth Kann  
Director  
AOC Executive Office Programs  
Judicial Council of California  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

RECEIVED  
AUG 11 2009  
CHAMBERS OF THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE

## PROPOSAL FOR COURTHOUSE NAME FOR NEW LONG BEACH COURTHOUSE

I am pleased that progress continues to be made on replacing the old Long Beach Courthouse with a new, state-of-the-art building that staff from the County of Los Angeles will be proud to occupy with the Los Angeles Superior Court.

We are proposing that the new courthouse be named in honor of the Thirty-Fifth Governor of California, the Honorable George Deukmejian. Although we see from your recently adopted Courthouse Naming Policy that naming a courthouse after a living person is very rarely used, we believe that former Governor Deukmejian is one of those exceptional persons that meets your criteria:

1. **Governor Deukmejian has made recognizable, significant contributions to the State judicial system.** After serving in the State Assembly and Senate, he served as California Attorney General from 1979 to 1983. From 1983 to 1991, he was Governor of California. During that term, he appointed 1,000 judges to the California bench. In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Governor Deukmejian to lead a panel to investigate and recommend changes to the State's troubled penal system, and in 1999, he led a committee to study laws to fight hate crime.
2. **Governor Deukmejian is neither actively practicing law nor affiliated with a law firm, law-related business, or other for-profit business entity.** Having retired in 2000, he has served the public interest, such as his service on special committees, including one to reform the California penal system, and has received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from California State University, Long Beach in 2008 because of his support for education, State law and the Long Beach community.

Mr. Kenneth Kann  
August 4, 2009  
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1. Governor Deukmejian does not have any case pending before a court and is not likely to come before the court in future litigation.
2. The naming does not present a potential conflict of interest.
3. Naming a courthouse after Governor Deukmejian is consistent with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

The new Long Beach Courthouse is the ideal court facility to be named after Governor Deukmejian, as he represented the Long Beach area in the State Legislature and still considers Long Beach his home town.

Sincerely,



DON KNABE  
Chairman of the Board  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

DK:e

c: The Honorable Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California  
Mr. William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts



ARTHUR G. SCOTLAND  
PRESIDING JUSTICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## Court of Appeal

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
621 CAPITOL MALL, 10TH FLOOR  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

September 27, 2010

PHONE: (916) 653-0087

Mr. William Vickrey  
Administrative Director of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Bill:

The Honorable Don Knabe, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts, on August 4, 2009, a proposal to name the new Long Beach Courthouse of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in honor of former Governor George Deukmejian. Such an honor is consistent with standards set forth in the Courthouse Naming Policy adopted by the Judicial Council effective May 11, 2009.

It is most fitting to name the courthouse in honor of Governor Deukmejian, who lives in Long Beach, practiced law there as an attorney, represented the community as a member of the State Assembly and State Senate, and, as Attorney General and Governor of California, acted in many ways to enhance the administration of justice in our state. Indeed, in 2003, the Judicial Council of California presented the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award to Governor Deukmejian for his "outstanding contributions to the courts of California."

The following is a small sample of the many individuals who join me in supporting Supervisor Knabe's proposal to name the Long Beach Courthouse in honor of Governor Deukmejian.

Charles "Tim" McCoy, Jr., Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County  
Bob Foster, Mayor of Long Beach  
Alan Lowenthal, State Senator, 27th District  
Bonnie Lowenthal, Assembly Member, 54th District  
Michael Vicencia, President, California Judges' Association, and Judge, Los Angeles County  
Bill Hebert, President, State Bar of California  
Alan Steinbrecher, President, Los Angeles County Bar Association  
John Van de Kamp, former Attorney General and District Attorney of Los Angeles County  
Bob Philibosian, former District Attorney of Los Angeles County  
Carol Corrigan, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court  
William McGuinness, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District  
Roger Boren, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District  
Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District  
Judith McConnell, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District  
James Ardaiz, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
Conrad Rushing, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District  
Steven Merksamer, Attorney and former Chief of Staff to Governor Deukmejian  
Rodney Blonien, Attorney and former Legislative Secretary to Governor Deukmejian  
Vance Raye, Third Appellate District and former Legal Affairs Secretary to Governor Deukmejian  
Charles Poochigian, Fifth Appellate District and former Appointments Secretary to the Governor  
George Nicholson, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District  
Richard Huffman, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District  
Patricia Manoukian, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District  
Bill Bagley, Attorney and former Assembly Member who served with Governor Deukmejian

Mr. William Vickrey  
September 27, 2010  
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We enthusiastically urge the Court Facilities Working Group, Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, to convene soon and recommend that the Long Beach Courthouse be named in honor of Governor Deukmejian and you then recommend to the Judicial Council of California that it bestow this honor upon him.

It is our hope the Judicial Council acts at its October meeting to approve this well-deserved honor as recognition of the many contributions Governor Deukmejian has made to the administration of justice in California.

Respectfully,



Arthur G. Scotland  
Administrative Presiding Justice  
Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District  
Former Cabinet Secretary to Governor Deukmejian

cc: Chief Justice Ronald M. George

Ron Overholt  
Chief Deputy Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts

Lee Willoughby  
Court Facilities Working Group  
Administrative Office of the Courts