



Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on April 29, 2011

Title	Agenda Item Type
Ralph N. Kleps Award: Recommendations for 2010–2011 Award Recipients	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	April 29, 2011
Recommended by	Date of Report
Kleps Award Committee Hon. Ronald B. Robie, Chair	March 24, 2011
	Contact
	Deirdre Benedict, 415-865-8915 deirdre.benedict@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Kleps Award Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the 2010–2011 Ralph N. Kleps Award recipients to recognize and honor the innovative contributions to the administration of justice made by individual courts in California.

Recommendations are developed by the Kleps Award Committee—a 19-member panel comprising justices, judges, and court administrators—which carefully evaluates all applicants based on the award criteria, including improvements that reflect innovation, fulfillment of the intent of at least one goal of the judicial branch’s strategic plan, and transferability to other courts.

By adopting the Kleps Award Committee’s recommendations, the Judicial Council supports the sharing of effective management practices branchwide, affirms these local court programs, and commends them to other courts in California as positive models for replication.

Recommendation

The Kleps Award Committee will make recommendations for the 2010–2011 Ralph N. Kleps Award for the Judicial Council’s approval. Because of the confidential nature of

recommendations, the Kleps Award Committee will deliver its recommendations to the Judicial Council at the April 29, 2011, meeting.

Previous Council Action

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

This is the 18th time in 20 years that the Judicial Council will present the Kleps Award, created in honor of Ralph N. Kleps, the first California Administrative Director of the Courts. The purpose of the award is to recognize and honor the contributions made by individual California courts to the administration of justice.

Rationale for Recommendation

The criteria for the award include court administration improvements 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 12, 2010, with a submission deadline of August 15, 2010. Courts submitted nominations in one of five categories: three based on court size as defined by authorized judicial positions, a fourth category for the appellate courts, and a fifth category for collaborative projects submitted by two or more courts. A total of 16 nominations were received.

After reviewing each of the 16 nominations, the full committee determined that 12 of the nominations successfully met the eligibility criteria outlined in the nomination materials.¹ Committee members then made site visits to applicants to see the programs in action and learn more from the program staff and judicial officers involved in the programs. Immediately after each site visit, committee members scored each program and submitted a consensus score and evaluation form to staff.

The full committee will meet on April 12 to evaluate all eligible nominees within each category. Programs that most clearly meet the nomination criteria—most significantly, court administration improvements 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 2010–2011 Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts. Those recommendations will be presented to the Judicial Council for its adoption at the April 29, 2011, meeting.

¹ After being deemed eligible, one court withdrew its program for consideration.

The Kleps Awards Committee serves as the jury for the award and is made up of 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, and CEO José Guillén, Superior Court of Sonoma County, serves as vice-chair. A roster of the current membership is attached.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

N/A

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

In an effort to minimize expenses and to make most effective use of the courts' time and staff resources, we will honor the recipients at local ceremonies at each court. These local ceremonies will occur in fall 2011.

In addition, Kleps Award recipients will be celebrated and highlighted in video segments, in the AOC publication *Innovations in the California Courts*, and on the AOC's website at www.courts.ca.gov/programs-innovations.htm.

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives

Kleps Award recipients must demonstrate that they further one of the six goals of the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan.

The Kleps Award program as a whole supports two strategic goals: Goal III: Modernization of Management and Administration, as it evaluates internal operations and services in the courts and supports the sharing of effective management practices branchwide; and Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public, as it supports collaborations to improve court practices, to leverage and share resources, and to create tools to educate court stakeholders and the public.

Attachments

Attachment A: 2010–2011 Kleps Award Program, Committee Roster

**2010–2011
Kleps Award Program
Committee Roster**

1. HON. RONALD B. ROBIE, CHAIR
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal
Third Appellate District
621 Capitol Mall, 10th Fl
Sacramento, California 95814
2. Mr. José Guillén, CEO, Vice-Chair
Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma
600 Administration Drive Room 107J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403 855
3. Hon. Kathleen Banke
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal
First Appellate District
350 McAllister
San Francisco, California 94102-4712
4. Mr. James Brighton
Bureau Chief—Planning, Research,
Public Information, and Court Services
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda
1225 Fallon Street, Room 104M
Oakland, California 94612
5. Mr. Alex Calvo, CEO
Superior Court of California
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060
6. Ms. Karen Camper
Court Analyst
Superior Court of California,
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, California 95249
7. Ms. Mary Majich Davis
Chief Assistant Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino
303 West Third Street, 4th Floor
San Bernardino, California 92415-0302
8. Ms. Rebecca Fleming, ACEO
Superior Court of California,
County of Stanislaus
800 11th Street
Modesto, California 95353
9. Hon. Ronald F. Frazier
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
220 W. Broadway
San Diego, California 92101
10. Mr. Hector Gonzalez, Jr., CEO
Superior Court of California,
County of Mono
452 Old Mammoth Road
P.O. Box 1037
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546
11. Ms. Tammy Grimm, CEO
Superior Court of California,
County of Inyo
301 West Line Street
Bishop, California 93514
12. Hon. Mary Thornton House
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
Northeast District
300 E. Walnut Street
Pasadena, California 91101

**2010–2011
Kleps Award Program
Committee Roster**

13. Mr. Kevin J. Lane
Assistant Clerk Administrator
Fourth Appellate District, Division One
750 B. Street, Suite 300
San Diego, California 92101
14. Ms. Nicole N. Le
Superior Court of California,
County of Orange
West Justice Center
8141 13th Street
Westminster, California 92683
15. Hon. Jackson Lucky
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Riverside
4175 Main Street
Riverside, California 92506
16. Hon. Cynthia Ludvigsen
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino
Civil and Probate Division
303 W. Third Street, Dept S-34
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210
17. Hon. Robert H. Oliver
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Fresno
1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, California 93724
18. Hon. Donna M. Petre (Ret.)
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Yolo
19. Ms. Sylvia White-Irby, Administrator
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
111 N. Hill Street, Rm. 105E
Los Angeles, California

AOC STAFF

Ms. Deirdre Benedict, Lead Staff
Court Services Analyst
Administrative Office of the Courts
Executive Office Programs Division
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Ms. Deborah A Silva
Administrative Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Executive Office Programs Division
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102