



Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

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

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CIRCULATING ORDER MEMORANDUM
TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Circulating Order Number: CO-11-02

Title

Joint Recipients for New Judicial Council
Distinguished Service Award: The Richard D.
Huffman Justice for Children and Families
Award

Action Requested

VOTING MEMBERS ONLY: Vote and
return by fax. Additionally, return original
signature page.

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

N/A

Please Respond By

June 22, 2011

Recommended by

Hon. Kenneth K. So, Vice-Chair, Executive
and Planning Committee

Date of Report

June 17, 2011

Contact

Nancy Spero, 415-865-7915
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Executive Summary

Judicial Council members were notified via e-mail by their colleague, Judge Winifred Younge Smith, about a proposed plan by several members of the council to establish a new Distinguished Service Award to be named for Justice Richard D. Huffman. For this inaugural year of the Richard D. Huffman Justice for Children and Families Award, formal council approval is requested to present the award jointly to Justice Huffman and Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey. This formal approval will facilitate the announcement of the establishment of the award, together with the names of the inaugural award recipients, at the June 23, 2011, Judicial Council dinner and recognition event for Justice Huffman as he concludes more than 14 years of service as a member of the council.

Recommendation

With council approval through this circulating order, the new award will be established with the following criteria for eligibility: "To honor members of the judiciary and others for outstanding contributions to improving access to and the quality of justice for children and families."

For their exceptional commitment and success in this regard, it is recommended that Justice Richard D. Huffman and Administrative Director William C. Vickrey be approved as joint recipients of the award in its inaugural year. In future years, nominations will be invited during the regular nominations cycle for the Distinguished Service Awards. The awards will be presented at the Beyond the Bench Conference in December 2011 in San Francisco.

Previous Council Action

The council has presented Distinguished Service Awards for the past 17 years.

California Rules of Court, Rule 10.5(h) states that the council may act between council meetings on urgent matters if the Chief Justice or the Administrative Director approves.

Rationale for Recommendation

This award was proposed and supported by a group of Judicial Council members, including Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Judges James E. Herman, Ira R. Kaufman, Winifred Younge Smith, Kenneth K. So, Sharon J. Waters, and Erica R. Yew. The award honors Justice Huffman's exceptional service as a member of the council and his outstanding commitment to improving outcomes for families and children in the court system.

As the inaugural recipients of the award, Justice Huffman and Mr. Vickrey will set a standard of excellence for all future recipients.

1. Justice Richard D. Huffman has served as a valuable member of the Judicial Council for almost 15 years, 14 as chair of the council's Executive and Planning Committee. In this leadership role he has made significant contributions to improving family and juvenile law, and, correspondingly, outcomes for families and children in the court system. Additionally, he has worked for many years with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) and in judicial education on family and juvenile law. Justice Huffman has further demonstrated his commitment to children and families in our justice system by stepping down each year from his position on the Court of Appeal to accept assignments to the San Diego juvenile or dependency court for a period of weeks. He continues to be involved in ensuring implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care and in other work with CFCC. As Justice Huffman retires from service as a member of the council, it is appropriate that he receive this honor and recognition.

2. In 39 years of public service, 19 as California's Administrative Director of the Courts, William C. Vickrey has played a pivotal role in implementing Judicial Council policies to improve family and juvenile law, and, correspondingly, outcomes for families and children in the court system. From his early career in youth corrections, he has championed these efforts. Mr. Vickrey spearheaded the creation of CFCC, which is recognized nationally for its groundbreaking work in improving the quality of justice and services to meet the diverse needs of children, youth, and families in the courts. Nationally, he was selected to serve as a member of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care and subsequently helped establish California's Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, the recommendations of which are advancing comprehensive foster care reform in California. As Mr. Vickrey retires from his statewide leadership position as Administrative Director of the Courts in September of this year, it is appropriate that he receive this honor and recognition.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

Input on the proposal for the recipients was invited from council members in a May 19, 2011, e-mail from Judge Winifred Younge Smith.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

These awards will have minimal fiscal impact, and none to the trial courts.

Attachments

1. Voting instructions
2. Vote and signature pages

Instructions for Review and Action by Circulating Order

Voting members

- Please indicate your **vote, sign, and FAX** the signature pages to the attention of **Secretariat Unit, Executive Office Programs Division**, at 415-865-4586 by **5 p.m.**, June 22, 2011, if possible.
- If you are unable to reply by June 22, 2011, please do so as soon as possible thereafter.
- Additionally, **return the original** signature page to the Secretariat Unit, Administrative Office of the Courts, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102-3688. **Please keep a copy for your records.**

Advisory members

The circulating order is being faxed to you for your information only. There is no need to sign or return any documents.

CIRCULATING ORDER
Judicial Council of California
Voting and Signature Pages

Effective immediately, the Judicial Council approves the Joint Recipients for New Judicial Council Distinguished Service Award: The Richard D. Huffman Justice for Children and Families Award.

My vote is as follows:



Approve

Disapprove

Abstain

/s/
Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chair

/s/
Stephen H. Baker

/s/
Marvin R. Baxter

Noreen Evans

Mike Feuer

/s/
James E. Herman

/s/
Harry E. Hull, Jr.

/s/
Ira R. Kaufman

/s/
Miriam A. Krinsky

Edith R. Matthai

/s/
Joel S. Miliband

/s/
Douglas P. Miller

/s/
Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley

/s/
James N. Penrod

My vote is as follows:

Approve

Disapprove

Abstain

_____/s/
Burt Pines

_____/s/
Winifred Younge Smith

_____/s/
Kenneth K. So

_____/s/
Sharon J. Waters

_____/s/
David S. Wesley

_____/s/
Erica R. Yew

Date: June 22, 2011

Attest: 

Deputy Director of the Courts