



Judicial Council of California

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August 5, 2005

Dear readers:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *California Courts Review*, the new quarterly magazine by, for, and about the state judicial branch.

The magazine was created to fill a niche in our branchwide communications program. In focus groups with court leaders, we learned that they continue to rely on print media for detailed or complex information and want regular summaries of judicial branch initiatives that they can use in briefing court staff and in local outreach efforts. The magazine also seeks to realize a vision we have had for many years to provide a forum for branch leaders, and to encourage debate on issues affecting the branch.

In our first issue, Professor J. Clark Kelso, of McGeorge School of Law, provides an insightful analysis of why article VI, the part of the California Constitution governing the judicial branch, needs to be updated. Judge Bradford L. Andrews, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, paints a revealing picture of what it is like to work in one of California's worst courthouses while Ronald G. Overholt, Chief Deputy Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, reflects on the transformation of the trial courts, particularly in the last decade. And Malcolm Franklin, senior manager of the Emergency Planning and Security Unit at the AOC, reports on efforts to protect the courts and court users and staff from all types of disasters.

A regular feature is "Justice Portrayed," a column by Court of Appeal Justice Arthur Gilbert of Ventura that examines how the courts are depicted in the media. The "In My View" column, written for this issue by Judge James M. Mize of the Superior Court of Sacramento County, will feature commentaries from various court leaders on issues facing the judicial branch. Those and other informative articles will be in each issue of *California Courts Review*.

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We look forward to your thoughts, suggestions, and especially your contributions to future issues. Please contact Managing Editor Philip Carrizosa with your comments.

Sincerely,

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

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Enclosure