



MEDIA ADVISORY

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting Friday in San Francisco

Council to Consider Proposed Court Budgets, Foster Care Reforms, and Improved Court Collections

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2008, at the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council is the administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc. Meeting materials are available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age081508.pdf>.

Reports on the council's agenda include the following:

Budget Proposals: The council will review fiscal year 2009–2010 budget requests of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, California Judicial Center Library, trial courts, and Administrative Office of the Courts.

Children in Foster Care: The council will consider the final recommendations of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, a 42-member panel appointed by Chief Justice George two years ago. The recommendations are designed to improve the juvenile dependency courts and the child welfare system.

Commission for Impartial Courts: The council will hear an interim report on the work of the Commission for Impartial Courts, which is charged with studying and recommending ways to ensure judicial impartiality and accountability. The commission will make recommendations in its final report to be presented to the council in 2009.

(more)

Court Collections: The council will consider adopting the revised Collections Reporting Template, Collections Performance Measures and Benchmarks, and Collections Best Practices for use by the cooperative superior court and county collection programs. Each of these recommendations enable the Judicial Council to meet newly-enacted legislative mandates in the area of collections.

Riverside Criminal Backlog Reduction: This report will update the Judicial Council on the results of actions taken by Chief Justice George to address the serious backlog of cases facing Riverside County. Those actions included the assignment of a special team of judges with extensive criminal trial experience and a task force convened by Justice Richard Huffman that recommended ways to improve the management of criminal cases.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.