



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Chief Justice to Testify Today on Death Penalty Proposal in Sacramento

State Commission Holds Public Hearings on Administration of Death Penalty

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WHO: Chief Justice George will testify today at a public hearing on a new proposal that would help alleviate the large backlog of fully-briefed death penalty appeals pending before the California Supreme Court. The proposal would also permit the court to devote more of its limited time and resources to significant death penalty issues and other important civil and criminal appellate litigation.

WHAT: This hearing is being held by the Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice on the administration of the death penalty in California. For more information, see the commission's Web site at www.ccfaj.org.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 10, 2008

WHERE: State Capitol Building, Hearing Room 4203
Sacramento, California 95814

INTERVIEWS: Chief Justice George is expected to speak for 20 to 25 minutes and will answer questions from the commission following his remarks. Afterward, he will be available to speak to the press.

The proposal to be discussed by the Chief Justice would amend the state Constitution to permit the Supreme Court to transfer death penalty appeals to the Courts of Appeal. The Constitution now grants the state Supreme Court authority to transfer any matter to the Court of Appeal—except for appeals from judgments imposing the death penalty. For more information see: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR76-07.PDF.

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