



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Release Number: 02

Release Date: January 15, 2010

Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting on Court Closures on January 21

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will evaluate the impact of the one-day-a-month court closures in state courts that began last September and consider whether to continue the closures at a public business meeting from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2010. The meeting will be held in the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

In response to severe reductions in the judicial branch budget, the Judicial Council approved the court closures in July 2009 as authorized by legislation. The one-day-a-month closures have been in effect since September 2009 and were originally intended to remain in effect until June 2010.

At its meeting next week, the council will consider the impact of the court closures on the state trial and appellate courts and justice system partners, as well as the cost savings achieved to date and savings estimates through the end of the fiscal year.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council is the 27-member policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/meetings.htm>. The agenda and reports are available online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age012110.pdf>.

A summary of other reports on the meeting agenda follows:

Court Facility Transfers: The Judicial Council will be asked to adopt a resolution recognizing the Administrative Office of the Courts, and its Office of Court Construction and Management, for completing 532 trial court facility transfers mandated by the Trial Court Facilities Act.
(Discussion agenda.)

(more)

Collection of Court–Ordered Debt: The council will consider approving a report to the Legislature on the collection of delinquent court–ordered debt. The report contains information on (1) the extent to which each court or county is following best practices for its collection program, (2) the performance of each collection program, and (3) any changes necessary to improve performance of collection programs statewide. (*Consent agenda.*)

New Long Beach Courthouse: The council will consider amending Government Code section 70391.5 to provide that any possessory interest that may arise from a lease or other agreement with a non-governmental entity for delivery of the new Long Beach Courthouse be deemed public property and be exempt from tax that would attach if it were deemed a private entity having a possessory interest in public property. (*Consent agenda.*)

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.

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