



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Judicial Council to Hold Public Business Meeting on Friday, February 25

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2011, at the Joe Serna Sr. California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Klamath Room, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95812.

Chaired by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the council is the administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>.

Meeting materials are now available at

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age20110225.pdf>.

**Commendation for John G. Davies:** The Judicial Council will consider a recommendation that it commend the leadership and achievements of Mr. John G. Davies for his 48 years of service to the judiciary and the people of California. As judicial appointments secretary to Governor Pete Wilson (1995–1999) and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (2004–2007), Mr. Davies recommended more than 640 candidates for trial court appointments, 49 candidates for Court of Appeal appointments, and four candidates for Supreme Court appointments.

**New Long Beach Courthouse:** The council's Executive and Planning Committee recommends naming the proposed new trial courthouse to be constructed in the City of Long Beach in honor of former Governor George Deukmejian. The courthouse will be the first new state-funded courthouse completed in Los Angeles County. It will replace the current deficient courthouse with a new 31-courtroom facility.

**CCMS Cost Benefit Analysis:** The council will hear a presentation on the independent cost-benefit analysis of the California Court Case Management System (CCMS) performed by Grant Thornton LLP. This is an information item; no council action is required.

**CCMS Update:** The council also will hear a summary and update of CCMS, including a live demonstration of system capabilities. Interim versions of CCMS are in use at seven trial courts and process more than 25 percent of the state's civil cases. CCMS is designed to support courts of all sizes through the California Courts Technology Center. In December 2010, CCMS governance was augmented to provide broader participation from the judicial branch, bar, and justice system partners. This is an information item; no council action is required.

The council's consent agenda includes the following reports:

**Visitation Grant Program:** Subject to the availability of federal funding, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends the allocation and distribution of \$766,828 statewide for the Access to Visitation Grant Program for each of the fiscal years 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. The program supports and facilitates noncustodial parents' access to and visitation with their children through supervised visitation and exchange services, parent education, and group counseling services.

**Judges' Retirement System II:** The Policy Liaison and Coordination Committee recommends that the Judicial Council cosponsor legislation with the California Judges Association to amend the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) statutes to: (1) allow JRS II members who previously served as subordinate judicial officers (SJOs) to purchase JRS II service credit for a fraction of their SJO years; and (2) allow a spouse of a JRS II member who is entitled to pre-retirement death benefits to opt for benefits that have a lower dollar value, and/or to waive his or her share of the benefits and allow them to pass to another designated beneficiary.

**Subordinate Judicial Officers:** The AOC recommends that the Judicial Council approve a modification to the allocation schedule for Subordinate Judicial Officer conversions authorized under Government Code Section 69615(c)(1)(A). The modification will allow the Superior Court of Orange County to convert a second vacant SJO position to a judgeship in fiscal year 2011–2012 and facilitate the timely implementation of SJO conversion policy. The AOC also recommends guidelines for the conversion of additional SJO vacancies authorized under Government Code Section 69615(c)(1)(C).

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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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.*