



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Thursday, March 12

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009, in 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 27-member 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/. The agenda and reports are available online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age031209.pdf>.

The Judicial Council will consider the following reports:

Mediation Week: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) recommends that the council adopt a standing resolution recognizing the third week of every March as Mediation Week, to coincide with similar actions by other government organizations and leaders. Mediation Week is designed to encourage courts to implement and expand mediation programs and to acknowledge those who have created successful programs in their courts.

Access to Visitation Grant Program: The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends the approval of a funding allocation and distribution of approximately \$772,000 in federal Child Access and Visitation Grant funds for fiscal year 2009–2010 to continue specified programs. (*See Attachment A of online report.*)

Child Support Program: The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee asks the council to reallocate funding of child support commissioners and family law facilitators for fiscal year 2008-2009, subject to the state Budget Act. This midyear reallocation process is a review of each court's program funding, conducted once each year to determine if any adjustment is warranted.

(more)

Civil Discovery: The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends that the council adopt rule 3.1015 of the California Rules of Court, effective March 13, 2009, to fill an unintentional one-year gap in the law authorizing deposition subpoenas in actions pending outside of the state. The proposed rule incorporates the language of the predecessor statute into the rules of court so that courts and litigators may continue to act under that rule until a new statute goes into effect.

Conflict of Interest Code: As the governing body for judicial branch agencies, the Judicial Council annually reviews and approves proposed amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code of the AOC. This year's proposed amended code adds and deletes designated positions.

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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