



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Consider Statewide Report on Domestic Violence Cases

Public Meeting Set Friday, February 22, in SF

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 to 11:40 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 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/. The agenda and reports are available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age022208.pdf>.

Reports on the council's agenda include the following:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: The council will consider a comprehensive set of recommendations to improve the administration of justice in domestic violence cases. The report was prepared by the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force, chaired by retired Presiding Justice Laurence Kay of the Court of Appeal. Justice Kay will be available for comments immediately after the council's action.

DEATH PENALTY APPEALS: The Judicial Council's Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee will recommend that the council sponsor a legislative constitutional amendment to improve the processing of fully briefed death penalty appeals. The proposal would authorize the Supreme Court to transfer certain fully briefed capital appeals to the Courts of Appeal.

LAW SCHOOL ACCESS AND FAIRNESS: The council will consider a report that summarizes the results of focus groups on access and fairness in California law school curricula and the law school environment. The council is being asked to transmit the report to the State Bar Board of Governors, the Committee of Bar Examiners, and law school deans for further action.

APPELLATE PROCEDURE: The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends that the current rules relating to the superior court appellate divisions be repealed and replaced with new rules, and that new forms for civil and criminal appeals and writ proceedings in the appellate divisions also be approved.

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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.