



MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 10

Release Date: February 21, 2008

STATE PANEL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO RECOMMEND COURT IMPROVEMENTS

After Two-Year Study, Task Force Proposes 139 Guidelines and Practices to Improve Administration of Critical Cases

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

WHAT: The Judicial Council of California tomorrow will consider a comprehensive report that proposes major reforms in the administration of domestic violence cases in trial courts. The recommendations from the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force focus on domestic violence restraining orders, entry of those orders into a statewide database, firearms relinquishment procedures, criminal procedures, and court leadership.

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 22, 2008, 11:10 to 11:40 a.m. (Approximate)

WHERE: Judicial Council Conference Center
Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco 94102

WHY: Domestic violence has a major impact on the lives of Californians. A 2003 study by the California Department of Health Services on women's health issues found that nearly 6 percent of women – or about 622,000 women per year - experienced violence or physical abuse by their intimate partners. The same study revealed that each year domestic violence occurred in more than 436,000 households in which children were present, potentially exposing nearly a million children violence in the home.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, a report by former Attorney General Bill Lockyer observed that improvements could be made in the justice system's handling of domestic violence restraining orders, compliance with firearms restrictions, and probation orders resulting from plea bargains. The same year, Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed the task force and charged it with developing a comprehensive report to improve domestic violence practices and procedures.

Presiding Justice Laurence Kay, retired justice of the Court of Appeal, will be available for comments after the Judicial Council meeting. The report is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/022208item9.pdf.

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.