



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, April 24

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San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 to 11:55 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 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 policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/meetings.htm. The agenda and reports are available online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age042409.pdf.

A summary of the Judicial Council's discussion agenda follows.

Court Budgets: Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey and Chief Deputy Director Ronald G. Overholt will provide a status report on the judicial branch budget for fiscal year 2009–2010.

Kleps Awards: The council will announce the recipients of the 2008–2009 Ralph N. Kleps Awards to recognize and honor the innovative contributions made by individual courts in California in the administration of justice.

Judicial Benefits: The council will consider the adoption of interim procedures to regulate the administration of court-funded local judicial benefits authorized by Senate Bill 11. The procedures are proposed in order to further the accountability of the court system.

Subordinate Judicial Officers: The council will consider minor modifications to a December 2007 report on the conversion of subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions. The policy modifications seek to (1) allow for greater flexibility in the allocation of SJO conversions across different court groups and (2) establish clear criteria for granting courts temporary exemptions to SJO conversions.

(more)

The Judicial Council's consent agenda contains 10 reports proposing new and amended rules of court and court forms, changes in civil jury instructions, and a revision in the *Prioritization Methodology for Modifications to Court Facilities*.

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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