



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Consider Proposals on Judicial Campaign Conduct

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010, 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 <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>. Meeting materials are now available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age20100625.pdf>.

A summary of reports on the meeting agenda follows:

Judicial Elections: The Implementation Committee of the Commission for Impartial Courts recommends that the Judicial Council endorse and refer out to the California Supreme Court and State Bar of California 12 recommendations designed to elevate standards of judicial candidate campaign conduct. The proposals would establish state and local fair judicial elections committees and develop a model campaign conduct code for judicial elections. In addition, the recommendations would amend the Code of Judicial Ethics to disqualify a judge for a public statement that reasonably appears to commit the judge to reach a particular result or ruling in a court proceeding. The recommendations are the product of more than two years study and outreach by the 88-member commission.

New Judicial Council Voting Policy: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) recommends that the Judicial Council adopt a new voting policy under which council action at a business meeting requires the concurrence of a majority of voting members. Under the current council policy, a council action requires a concurrence of a majority of a quorum of voting members. The proposed new policy will ensure that sufficient

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votes have been obtained for council actions at business meetings. The AOC also recommends that the council use the new voting policy to approve a new vote on a proposed rule on firearms relinquishment in criminal protective order cases, which was adopted in April 2010 under the current voting policy and does not become effective until July 1, 2010. A new vote would foster certainty and reliability as to the council's action on this matter.

Relinquishment of Firearms: The Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force recommends the adoption of a court rule to provide a procedure for the trial courts issuing criminal protective orders in domestic violence cases to assist in determining whether a defendant has complied with a court order to relinquish or sell any firearms that the defendant owns, possesses or controls. The rule would fill a gap in the underlying statute, Code of Civil Procedure section 527.9, and would establish a uniform statewide procedure, help protect victims, and ensure public safety. The reconsideration of this report will occur if the Judicial Council adopts a new voting policy (see above item) and approves a new vote.

Juvenile Dependency Counsel: The AOC recommends that the council adopt a competitive solicitation policy applicable to Dependency Representation, Administration, Funding, and Training (DRAFT) program courts. Implementation of such a policy would maximize funding of the court-appointed counsel program and would provide transparency to a process that has the potential to be viewed as arbitrary. The collection program guidelines have been developed under legislative mandate; adoption of the guidelines ensures Judicial Council compliance with statutory requirements.

Jury Instructions: The Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions recommends approval of various proposed additions and revisions to the *Judicial Council Civil Jury Instructions (CACI)*.

Adult Offender Supervision: The Executive and Planning Committee will recommend an appointment to the California Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision (state council). The seven-member state council must include a superior court judge appointed by the Judicial Council. The state council is required by the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which supports the state administration of the transfer across state lines of the supervision of adult parolees and probationers.

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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.