



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care to Release Final Report and Action Plan**

### ***Report Cites Urgent Need for Action in “Changing the Way Courts do Business” and Calls for Implementation of Key Reforms***

The California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care will release its final report and action plan at tomorrow’s Foster Care Month Capitol Event in Sacramento. The commission is expected to call for immediate implementation of key reforms, including pending legislation that will extend supports to foster youth until age 21. It will also report on early progress in its unprecedented three-year collaborative effort to help overstressed juvenile dependency courts do a better job of safeguarding children and reduce the need for foster care.

Appointed by Chief Justice Ronald M. George in 2006, the commission has concluded its review of the courts’ role in foster care. After identifying a court and child welfare system that is plagued by staggering caseloads, insufficient and rushed hearings, lack of adequate information for judges to make informed decisions, and other barriers that prevent foster youth and their families from having an opportunity to participate meaningfully in proceedings that affect their lives, including where and with whom children will live, the commission made recommendations for sweeping reform and adopted an action plan to implement those recommendations.

The commission’s final report is being released in conjunction with events at the State Capitol that seek to increase awareness of the needs of California’s 75,000 foster youth. Supreme Court Associate Justice and commission chair Carlos R. Moreno will speak at a Capitol event where he is also being honored for his work on behalf of foster children. Moreno is a relative caregiver and foster parent himself.

**WHAT: Blue Ribbon Commission to Release Final Report and Action Plan**

**WHO: Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno** of the California Supreme Court and  
Commission Chair

**WHERE: North Steps of the State Capitol**  
(in conjunction with Foster Care Month Capitol Event)

**WHEN: 11:00 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

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