



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Business Meeting in San Francisco

Meeting Set April 25 on Electronic Discovery, Court Interpreters, and Juvenile Delinquency Survey

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San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 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. Meeting materials are available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/agn042508.pdf>

Reports on the council's agenda include the following.

Electronic Discovery: The council will consider sponsoring legislation to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to modernize California discovery law and improve the procedures for handling the discovery of electronically stored information.

Juvenile Delinquency Report: The first comprehensive research report on how state trial courts handle juvenile delinquency cases will be considered by the council. The report makes recommendations for improving the juvenile justice system.

Court Interpreters Testing Standards: The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends (1) the adoption of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) as the essential standards for court interpreter certification and registration, (2) the approval of oral bilingual proficiency screening for candidates in designated languages and in nondesignated languages wherever possible, and (3) prioritization of the development of

any new exams according to language use in the court and need. These changes are designed to ensure uniform statewide standards and excellence of service for the growing number of court users who require court interpretation.

Deadline for Court Interpreters: The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the February 1, 2009, grace period for registered interpreters of Eastern and Western Armenian, Mandarin, and Russian to become certified be modified to allow a one-year exemption (to February 1, 2010) for those interpreters who meet certain conditions, including participation in test preparation training and sitting for the certification exam.

Trial Court Facilities: The council will consider the adoption of an updated Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan, based on various changes in court construction projects throughout the state. If approved, the updated plan will be incorporated into the Judicial Branch AB 1473 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for FY 2009–2010.

Judicial Branch Planning: The council will consider a revised three-year Operational Plan. The plan represents a concerted effort by the council and other judicial branch stakeholders to establish high-priority objectives and desired outcomes for achieving the six overarching goals and 53 policies of *Justice in Focus: The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch*, adopted by the council in December 2006.

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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.