



MEDIA ADVISORY

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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

Major Study on Juvenile Delinquency Finds Overburdened Courts, Need for More Youth Services

First Research Study of Its Kind in California To Be Considered by Judicial Council Tomorrow

WHAT: The Judicial Council of California will consider a two-year study that makes major recommendations for improving the juvenile delinquency court system. It is the first study of its kind in California.

WHEN: Friday, April 25, 2008, 10:50 to 11:20 p.m.
(Times approximate)

WHERE: Judicial Council Conference Center
Hiram J. Smith State Office Building, Third Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue (between Polk and Larkin)
San Francisco, California 94102

KEY FINDINGS: The study finds that the workloads of judges and other professionals are too high and may reduce the courts' ability to process cases in a fair and timely manner. Further, more high-quality services are urgently needed for youth; juveniles and their families often do not understand court proceedings; courthouses have old, outdated technology systems; and many judges and attorneys enjoy their assignments working with youth but are rotated to other duties just at the time when their experience and effectiveness is high.

INTERVIEWS: Judge Susan D. Huguenor, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, San Diego County Superior Court, and cochair of the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Court Committee; and Judge Brian John Back, Ventura County Superior Court, chair of the working group that led this effort, will be available for interviews after the council takes action on this report. *For more information please call Lynn Holton at 415-865-7726 or Daisy Yee at 415-865-8929. The report, Juvenile Delinquency Court Assessment 2008, is available at this link:*

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/042508item7.pdf>.