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Judicial Council to Consider Court Audits, Budget Concepts, and Civics Education

Public Meeting to Be Held on Friday, August 27, in S.F.

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 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 website at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>. Meeting materials are now available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age20100827.pdf>.

Trial Court Audits: The Judicial Council will consider new procedures to govern the public disclosure of final audit reports of the state trial courts, the formal reporting of audit results and activities to the council, and a process to report any impairment that would affect the ability of the Internal Audit Services unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to perform its function. The AOC has performed court audits since 2001.

Court Budgets: The council will consider several proposed budget concepts for fiscal year 2011–2012 for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, trial courts, and Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts. Despite the absence of a State Budget for this year, budget concept proposals for the next year must be submitted to the state Department of Finance by September 13, 2010. Development of budget change proposals is the standard process for proposing funding adjustments in all branches of government.

Civics Education: The Implementation Committee of the Commission for Impartial Courts will recommend that the council take action on 2

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of the 12 recommendations from the CIC's final report that would improve judicial outreach, public information, and civics education. Those recommendations provide for (1) the appointment of a branchwide public outreach leadership group, and (2) focused and coordinated judicial branch advocacy for improving civics education in K–12 curriculum.

Distinguished Service Awards: Winners of the Judicial Council's Distinguished Service Awards will be recommended by the chairs of the council's three internal committees. The awards, which recognize outstanding service in the state courts, will be presented at a later date.

Trial Court Facilities: The council will consider the adoption of an updated Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and direct the AOC to present to the Department of Finance this plan as part of the five-year court facilities infrastructure plan, in addition to requests for the continuation of trial court capital projects.

Subordinate Judicial Officers: The council will consider a modification to the allocation schedule for the conversion of subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships. The modification would allow the Superior Court of El Dorado County to convert a vacant SJO position to a judgeship in fiscal year 2010–2011. The modification will also allow for the completion of all 16 SJO conversions for the current fiscal year pending enactment of the State Budget.

Children in Foster Care: Justice Carlos R. Moreno, of the California Supreme Court, will present an informational report on the first 18 months of implementation efforts by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, which issued sweeping recommendations for reform of the juvenile court and child welfare systems that were accepted by the Judicial Council in August 2008.

Domestic Violence: Retired Presiding Justice Laurence Donald Kay, of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, will present a report on the implementation efforts of the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force.

Court Interpreters: The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the council approve the *2010 Language Use and Interpreter Need in California Superior Courts* report for submission to the Legislature and Governor. The report details interpreter use and need throughout the trial courts during 2004–2008. The report assists in making determinations related to the Court Interpreters Program, such as which languages to designate for certification. Based on the findings of the current study, the advisory panel is not recommending the designation of any additional languages at this time.