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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, August 31

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. on Friday, August 31, 2007, 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/. The agenda and reports are available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age083107.pdf.

The agenda includes these reports:

Distinguished Service Awards: The council will consider recommendations for the recipients of the 2007 Distinguished Service Awards. The awards will be presented at the California Bench Bar Biannual Conference in September.

Foster Children: California Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno will present an interim report from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, which he chairs. The report will chronicle the commission's major activities during the past year and its plans for the coming year. The commission will present its final report and recommendations in 2008.

Minimum Education Requirements: The Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) will recommend adoption of rules to establish minimum education requirements for appellate court justices, clerk/administrators, managing attorneys, supervisors, and other personnel. The committee also will recommend minimum education requirements for Administrative Office of the Courts management staff and other employees.

Budget Allocations for Trial Courts: The council will consider the allocation of fiscal year 2006–2007 court-appointed counsel funds and fiscal year 2007–2008 funding for trial courts. The trial courts’ proposal includes the state appropriations limit (SAL) funding and budget augmentations for entrance screening, new judgeships, and implementation of the Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006.

Budget Request for Appellate Courts: The council will consider recommendations for the fiscal year 2008–2009 budget requests of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, California Judicial Center Library, and Administrative Office of the Courts.

Civil Assessments Working Group: The council will consider proposals on the (1) standardization of civil assessment programs statewide, (2) distributions of civil assessment revenues, and (3) allocation of reductions to trial courts as a result of Assembly Bill 139.

Court Interpreters: The Judicial Council’s Court Executives Advisory Committee has recommended revising the payment policies for contract court interpreters. The revisions to be considered by the council include daily compensation rates, the definition of half-day and full-day sessions, compensation for after-hours proceedings, and mileage reimbursement requirements.

Jury Instructions: The council will consider a recommendation to approve the publication of revisions and additions to the *California Civil Jury Instructions*, which were first published in 2003 and last revised in April 2007. The proposal includes revisions to six punitive damages instructions, revisions to two Fair Employment and Housing Act instructions, and a new series of instructions on unlawful detainer.

Editor’s Note: The agenda items on budget allocations for fiscal years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 and the agenda item on contract court interpreters are subject to final action on the State Budget.

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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.