



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Chief Justice to Take Action on Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care

Action Aimed At Ensuring Implementation of Sweeping Reforms

- WHAT:** Chief Justice to Announce Extension of the Work and Charge of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care
- WHO:** Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California
- WHERE:** Milton Marks Auditorium, Hiram Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco 94102
- WHEN:** 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 30, 2009
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Chief Justice Ronald M. George will announce tomorrow that he is extending the work and charge of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care to help ensure implementation of the commission's sweeping recommendations for reform of the state's juvenile dependency courts and foster care system. The Chief Justice will indicate that he is taking this step because the stakes are so high for children and youth who have suffered abuse and neglect.

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 Chief Justice will make his announcement at the commission's meeting tomorrow in San Francisco, which will include presentations by newly-formed local foster care commissions that are working to implement commission recommendations at the county level. Formation of local commissions, co-chaired by judges and heads of county child welfare agencies, is one of the Blue Ribbon Commission's key recommendations.

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