



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting In San Francisco on Friday, October 29

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. on Friday, October 29, 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/age20101029.pdf>.

The council will consider 38 separate reports recommending changes in court rules, forms, and standards governing state court practice and procedure. These reports include a new proposed Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule and six recommendations by the Implementation Committee of the Commission for Impartial Courts to improve the judicial appointment process.

**Trial Court Budget:** The council will consider proposals by the Trial Court Funding Working Group and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to allocate funding to the trial courts for fiscal year 2010–2011. These proposals address various court cost issues as well as approval of methodologies for implementing trial court funding reductions included in the 2010 state budget. Also included are recommendations related to a prior year adjustment and a proposed allocation carryover, as well as proposed policies for the Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program, and the reporting of fund balances.

**Financial Accountability and Efficiency:** The council will hear the first report of the Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and

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Efficiency for the Judicial Branch, which Chief Justice George appointed last June. The committee's report will contain recommendations to the Chief Justice on AOC compensation issues. A separate report will recommend that the council accept the final audit report of the Superior Court of Marin County, *Investigative Report: Destruction of Court Mediator Working Files*. This complies with a new policy that specifies the council must accept audit reports as the last step to finalizing these reports and posting them to the California courts website.

**Court Facilities:** The Trial Court Facility Modification Working Group and the AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management will recommend that the council approve a budget of \$50 million for statewide court facility modifications and planning in fiscal year 2010–2011. Also recommended is a prioritized list of facility modifications ranked according to the policy prescribed by the council. This budget amount reflects the current legislatively authorized funds for court facility modifications and the rankings prioritize hundreds of facility modifications according to their relative need and importance.

**Adoption Month:** The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee will recommend that the Judicial Council adopt a resolution proclaiming November to be Court Adoption and Permanency Month. Annual recognition of November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month reinforces the Judicial Council's commitment to finding permanent homes for children.

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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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.*