



MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 27

Release Date: August 21, 2006

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

Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, August 25

Council to Consider Reports on Court Budgets, Collections, Facilities, and Funding Standards for Security

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. on Friday, August 25, 2006, 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 28-member council is the administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>. Reports to be considered include the following:

Distinguished Service Awards: The Judicial Council will be asked to approve proposed winners of the 2005-2006 Distinguished Service Awards for significant and positive contributions to court administration in California. Winners are recommended by the chairs of the Executive and Planning, Rules and Projects, and Policy Coordination Committees.

Court Facilities Planning: The council will consider the adoption of the Prioritization Methodology for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects, a new simplified methodology that includes the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan identifying five priority project groups.

Court Collections: The Collaborative Court-County Working Group on Enhanced Collections recommends that the council adopt new guidelines, standards, and templates for collection programs and direct staff to continue efforts to assist courts and counties in establishing or improving collection programs.

Trial Court Security: The council will consider recommendations to establish new funding standards for trial court security in the areas of

(over)

professional staff support, security services and supplies, and vehicle use.

Trial Court Budget Allocations, FY 2006-2007: Council members will consider policy recommendations related to the allocation of (1) state appropriations limit adjustment funding for the trial courts, (2) funding for Judicial Council budget priorities, (3) security funding carried over from FY 2005–2006, (4) new funding for security and judgeships separately provided in the 2006 Budget Act, and (5) savings in the Judicial Branch Workers Compensation Program from FY 2005–2006.

Trial Court Budget Request, FY 2007–2008: The council will consider the fiscal year 2007–2008 trial court budget request so it can be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in September 2006. This would include requests for 50 additional judgeships and staff, funding to address Senate Bill 1396 security costs, and a state appropriations limit base adjustment.

The council's complete agenda is online at
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age082506.pdf>.

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.

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