



MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 30

Release Date: October 19, 2007

Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, October 26

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

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 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 29-member administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The discussion agenda includes reports on probate conservatorships, court-appointed counsel in juvenile dependency cases, and financial services for state trial courts. The consent agenda includes more than 40 reports on new and amended rules of court.

The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/. The agenda and accompanying reports are now available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age102607.pdf.

At a special presentation, the council members will hear a discussion of “California On My Honor: Civics Institute for Teachers,” a new professional development program that educates teachers on the role and operation of the California courts. In addition, council members will consider a recommendation that it again declare November “Court Adoption and Permanency Month,” as it has since 1999.

The reports on the council’s discussion agenda include the following:

Probate Conservatorship Task Force: The task force will present its final report and recommendations to improve the management of probate conservatorship cases in state trial courts. After an 18-month review of court practices, including public testimony, research of other jurisdictions, and interviews of court system users, the task force will request that the council accept its final report and direct further action on its proposals.

Probate Education Requirements: The Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee will recommend that the council adopt rules of court to (1) establish initial and continuing education requirements for judicial officers assigned to hear proceedings under the Probate Code; (2)

establish qualification and education requirements for court staff investigators, examiners, and probate attorneys; and (3) establish qualifications and continuing educational requirements that counsel must meet to be appointed by the court to represent minors, conservatees, and proposed conservatees.

Court-Appointed Counsel for Juveniles: The council will consider recommendations to expand the pilot courts in the Dependency Representation, Administration, Funding, and Training Program (DRAFT) for juvenile dependency cases; adopt standards on the caseload and compensation of court-appointed counsel; and reform funding in this area.

New Trial Court Services: The council will consider a report and recommendations on the Phoenix Financial System and the Phoenix Human Resources System, which are designed to improve the infrastructure of California trial courts.

-#-

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.