



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

MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 30

Release Date: August 11, 2009

Judicial Council to Hold Public Business Meeting in San Francisco

Meeting Set Friday, August 14, on Judicial Branch Budget, E-Discovery, Pro Bono Week, and Trial Court Facilities

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2009, 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 meeting materials are available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age081409.pdf>.

Reports on the council's discussion agenda include the following:

Electronic Discovery: The council will consider a rule proposal to require parties in all civil cases to discuss electronic discovery issues before the first case management conference. This proposal to amend rule 3.724 of the California Rules of Court supplements the Electronic Discovery Act, major new legislation on e-discovery in California that became effective on June 29, 2009, as an urgency measure. The rule change is designed to encourage the expeditious resolution of e-discovery issues and reduce the costs of litigation.

Budget Proposals: The council will consider budget requests for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, and state trial courts. The budget proposals, which address various critical service and programmatic needs of the judicial branch for fiscal year 2010–2011, are due to be submitted to the California Department of Finance next month as the first step of the state budget development process.

Under-resourced Courts: At the direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts will discuss potential adjustments that could reduce the impact of budget reductions on the most severely under-resourced courts.

Trial Court Facilities: The council will consider several refinements to the *Site Selection and Acquisition Policy for Court Facilities* which was adopted in June 2007. The policy guides site selection and acquisition for nine new courthouse projects initially funded in fiscal year 2007–2008 and provides procedures and criteria for site selection in future projects. The policy changes are designed to identify the conditions under which sites with certain characteristics may or may not be considered, selected, or acquired for construction projects. The changes also clarify the responsibilities of the AOC and the Project Advisory Group (PAG) selected by each court, in site evaluation and selection.

National Pro Bono Week: The American Bar Association has designated the week of October 25–31, 2009, as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration. In recognition of this event, the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants has prepared a resource kit to assist judges in encouraging pro bono service by California attorneys.

-#-

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.