



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Panel to Recommend New Protections for Conservatees in California Courts

Report Follows 18-Month Study of Probate Courts; Judicial Council to Vote on Friday, October 26

WHAT: A wide range of protections for conservatees in California—among the most vulnerable members of our population—will be recommended by a statewide panel appointed by Chief Justice Ronald M. George on Friday. Following an 18-month exhaustive study, the Probate Conservatorship Task Force has developed 85 separate recommendations to improve the management of probate conservatorship cases. Proposals include establishing a conservatee advocate program, fraud detection of professionals, minimum visitation rules, a required care plan, appointment of counsel for conservatees in all cases, and training of judges, court staff and attorneys.

WHEN: Friday, October 26, 2007 - 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m

WHERE: Judicial Council Conference Center
Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco 94102

WHY: Conservatees are vulnerable members of society who enter the court system with the expectation that they and their property will be protected by a fair judicial system, declared Chief Justice George at the time he appointed the committee. Conservatees are unable to make decisions about their personal care or their property, and are therefore entrusted to the care of court-appointed conservators. A series in the Los Angeles Times raised concerns that some conservatees were being subjected to abusive practices. This special task force has looked carefully at ways that the courts can maintain better oversight of these cases and how probate judges, attorneys, investigators, and others get better education and training. The panel's final report and recommendations will be presented for approval to the Judicial Council.

REPORT: The report to be presented to the Judicial Council is on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/102607itemD.pdf .

CONTACTS: News media are welcome to attend the meeting. For further information, please call Lynn Holton, Public Information Officer, at 415-865-7726, lynn.holton@jud.ca.gov.

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