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Release Number: 31

Date: December 8, 2010

Supreme Court Pays Tribute to Chief Justice George and Justice Baxter

Remarks Commemorating the Retirement of Chief Justice Ronald George and the 20th Anniversary of Justice Marvin Baxter

Los Angeles – Justice Joyce L. Kennard paid tribute to Chief Justice Ronald M. George this morning at the court’s December oral argument session in Los Angeles. It was the final day of oral arguments that the Chief Justice will participate in, following his decision to not seek another term of office. His last official day in office is January 2, 2010.

Justice Kennard, who made the remarks on behalf of her colleagues, stated: “As a colleague, the Chief has been a joy to work with. His terrific intellect, his warm personality, his delightful sense of humor, and his ability to listen thoughtfully set the tone for our Wednesday court conferences, where we all shared a warm camaraderie. It is therefore with profound sadness that on the eve of his retirement, we, his colleagues, say farewell — a very fond farewell — to Ronald George, our revered Chief Justice.” Justice Kennard is the senior associate justice of the court.

In addition, Chief Justice George paid tribute to Justice Marvin R. Baxter, who will soon celebrate his 20th anniversary as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. He took office in January 1991

At yesterday’s court session, Chief Justice George stated, “In a few weeks, our esteemed colleague, Justice Marvin R. Baxter, will reach the noteworthy milestone of 20 years’ service as a Justice of the California Supreme Court — capping his prior service of 14 years in the private sector in the practice of law in Fresno, and his public service as a Deputy District Attorney, as Appointments Secretary of Governor George Deukmejian, and as a Justice of the Court of Appeal for the Fifth Appellate District.”

Chief Justice George also noted that Justice Baxter has served “with distinction” for many years a member of the Judicial Council. He added, “I speak for all members of the court in extending our warmest

congratulations to Justice Baxter on this occasion, and in expressing our deep appreciation to him for the exceptional talents he has brought to the performance of his judicial duties.”