



MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 33

Release Date: November 2, 2007

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

Task Force on Judicial Selection and Retention Meets November 5

WHAT: A business meeting will be held by the Judicial Council's Task Force on Judicial Selection and Retention, chaired by Associate Justice Ronald B. Robie of the Third Appellate District. The task force will hear public comment and consider issues involving selection of judges; evaluation and screening of judges and judicial candidates; and continuation in office; and diversity. The panel is one of four task forces carrying out the work of the Commission for Impartial Courts, which was appointed by Chief Justice Ronald M. George last month to safeguard judicial quality, impartiality and accountability.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR50-07.PDF.

WHEN: Monday, November 5, 2007, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Administrative Office of the Courts
Northern/Central Regional Office, Suite 300, Delta Room A
27880 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento

AGENDA: The agenda is attached.

CONTACT: News media are welcome to attend the meeting. For more information please call:
Lynn Holton, Public Information Officer, 415-865-7726
Daisy Yee, Media Assistant, 415-865-8929

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.

Task Force on Judicial Selection and Retention
Northern/Central Regional Office, Suite 300, Delta Room A
27880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California

Monday, November 5, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Public comment:
Public comments are invited during the 15-minute interval preceding the beginning of the task force meeting. Members of the public who wish to address the task force should submit a request of no more than two pages to the Commission on Impartial Courts at least four business days before the meeting. Please address requests as follows:

Commission on Impartial Courts
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
impartialcourts@jud.ca.gov
Fax: 415-865-8795

10:15 a.m. Consideration of issues involving selection of judges:

- Commission-based appointing system (“Merit selection”)
 - Pre-selection
 - Post-selection (“confirmation”)
 - Variations
- Whether there are “open” elections
- Avoiding partisan politics
- “Member of bar” or “practicing law;” active or inactive membership
- Citizenship requirement
- Residency requirement – post appointment and how defined

11:15 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. Consideration of issues involving evaluation and screening of judges and judicial candidates:

- JNE commission
 - Current system
 - Release of evaluation upon announcement of appointment
- Official vs. unofficial evaluation
- Evaluation at time of initial appointment
- Evaluation at time of consideration of continuation in office
- Evaluation on non-judge declaring candidacy for judicial office
- Evaluation on for retention election, contested election, or both

- 12:30 p.m. Working lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Consideration of issues involving continuation in office:
- Length of term of office
 - Contestable election
 - Uncontested contestable election (on ballot)
 - Retention election
 - Expand to trial courts
 - Not on ballot unless triggered by what means
 - Time between appointment and first continuation election
 - Effect of evaluation on retention or contestable election
 - Appellate court elections every two years rather than every four years.
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Consideration of issues involving diversity:
- Race
 - Religion
 - Gender
 - Sexual orientation
 - Geography
 - Type of legal experience
 - Public or private practice
 - Political preference
 - Effect of 10 year practice requirement on diversity
- 3:45 p.m. Approval of minutes; next steps and next meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Adjournment