



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, December 7

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 11:35 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 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 meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/). The agenda and accompanying reports are available at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age120707.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age120707.pdf).

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

**Legislative Priorities:** The Judicial Council will consider its legislative priorities for 2008, including measures that are in process or have been partially implemented in recent years: (1) reform of the Judges' Retirement System II; (2) court facilities transfer deadline extension; (3) new judgeships; (4) court security; and (5) conversion of vacant SJO positions in fiscal year 2008-2009.

**Uniform Bail Schedule:** The Traffic Advisory Committee has proposed revisions to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules to become effective January 1, 2008. Vehicle Code section 40310 provides that the Judicial Council must annually adopt a uniform traffic penalty schedule for all nonparking Vehicle Code infractions.

**New Criminal Case Rules:** Two advisory committees will recommend that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2008, amend the California Rules of Court to clarify that all requests for trial continuances – including trailing cases – must comply with the “good cause” requirement of Penal Code section 1050. The revision is designed to encourage courts to actively manage trial calendars to preserve trial court flexibility and resources to minimize the number of statutory dismissals.

**Entrance Screening Station:** The council will consider a proposed funding allocation for replacing screening station equipment in the trial

courts. The funding was included in the Budget Act of 2007.

**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 Facilities:** The council will consider a recommendation that it delegate to the Administrative Director of the Courts or his designee the authority to develop performance expectations and benchmark criteria for alternate methods of delivering court facility projects, as required by recently-enacted Government Code Section 70391.5; and that the council confirm the Administrative Director of the Courts' authority to take all other actions necessary or desirable for completion of the new Long Beach courthouse.

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*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.*