



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco

Meeting Set Friday, October 23, on Court Funding, Ethics Code for Court Employees, Adoption Month

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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, October 23, 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. Meeting materials are available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age102309.pdf.

The council's consent agenda includes 43 reports proposing new and revised rules of court, court forms, and standards of judicial administration in various areas of law. The council's discussion agenda includes the following 5 reports:

Ethics Code for Court Employees: The council will consider proposed amendments to the *Code of Ethics for the Court Employees of California*, last updated in 1994. The changes reflect updated and comprehensive tenets and guidelines that support the highest standards of professional integrity and ethical conduct by all court employees.

Postemployment Benefits in Trial Courts: The council will consider a policy and guidelines on prefunding postemployment benefits and establishing irrevocable trusts by the trial courts. The policy would require trial courts to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in determining the court's ability to prefund such trusts and the actual process of establishing an irrevocable trust.

Trial Court Budget Allocations: The council will consider approving

allocations from the Trial Court Improvement Fund, the Judicial Efficiency and Modernization Fund, and the Trial Court Trust Fund to support statewide administrative and technology infrastructure, judicial education, complex litigation, alternative dispute resolution, self-help, and other programs.

Adoption and Permanency Month: The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council recognize National Adoption Month in California courts by proclaiming November to be Court Adoption and Permanency Month, as it has for the past 10 years. The goal is to highlight innovative efforts by courts and local communities and to encourage them to take special measures to expedite adoption and permanency. Approximately 71,000 children in California live apart from their families in child welfare–supervised out-of-home care.

Court Awards: Nine court programs will be formally recognized by the Judicial Council as recipients of the 2008–2009 Kleps Awards, which honor courts for innovative programs benefiting the public. Court of Appeal Justice Ronald B. Robie, chair of the council’s Kleps Award Committee, will profile the recipient court programs, which were announced earlier this year (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR21-09.PDF).

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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.