



# NEWS RELEASE

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## California State Courts Close Wednesday, February 17

### *Closures Result of Unprecedented State Budget Cuts*

San Francisco—All California state courts will close Wednesday, February 17, 2010, as a cost-saving measure to help courts cope with unprecedented budget reductions in the judicial branch of government.

All state courts will be closed tomorrow: the Supreme Court of California, the Courts of Appeal, and the superior courts in each of California's 58 counties. The Administrative Office of the Courts will be closed on the same day as the courts.

At a public meeting in July 2009, the Judicial Council approved the court closures on the third Wednesday of each month starting in September 2009 and continuing through June 2010. The closures were authorized by Government Code section 68106, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

At a special meeting last month, the council voted to continue the court closures through June 2010, due to the severity of the state's economic crisis and the judicial branch budget reductions.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council also reaffirmed its commitment to seek adequate resources from the Governor and Legislature to avoid statewide court closures in the next fiscal year.

Court closure days are to be counted as holidays for the purpose of computing time for statutory deadlines. See the full report approved by the Judicial Council at this link:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/072909item3.pdf>.

*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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.*