



# NEWS RELEASE

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Release Number: 7

Release Date: February 8, 2007

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
CALIFORNIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

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## Peter Allen to Join AOC as New Manager of Communications Office

San Francisco—Peter Allen, editor of *California Lawyer* magazine, will join the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) as the new manager of the Office of Communications, it was announced today by Kenneth L. Kann, director of the AOC's Executive Office Programs Division.

Mr. Allen will oversee a team of employees who are responsible for the AOC's communications to the courts and justice system partners as well as the content of the award-winning California Courts Web site, [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov). He will begin his new duties on February 21, 2007.

“As a legal journalist, I've followed the changes to the AOC over the last 10 years with considerable interest,” said Mr. Allen. “Public access to the courts has improved, the judiciary is more transparent, and overall it is a much stronger institution. I firmly believe that the strength of a democracy can be measured by the independence of its judiciary. I'm excited to be a part of its mission.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Allen has been editor of *California Lawyer*, a general-interest monthly legal magazine that has won more than 50 magazine awards from the Western Publications Association. Before joining the magazine 20 years ago, Mr. Allen worked for a news-weekly in Oakland, covering both city hall and education. He also was a general assignment reporter for a daily in Richmond, California and a freelance writer.

A member of the Arizona bar, Mr. Allen received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Arizona. He received his M.S. degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism School in 1981. Before graduating from Columbia, he worked as a legal aid lawyer in Washington state, as well as a legal assistant at the San Francisco City Attorney's office.

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Mr. Allen will be responsible for various projects produced by the Office of Communications, including a quarterly magazine for the judicial branch (*California Courts Review*), a monthly educational broadcast for court staff, regular e-mail updates to the courts, and editing and graphics services for the AOC, in addition to the California Courts Web site.

Judicial Council media relations will continue to be managed by Ms. Lynn Holton, public information officer of the Judicial Council and the California Supreme Court.

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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.*