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Data Issued Today on Race, Ethnicity, And Gender of California Judges

San Francisco—The Administrative Office of the Courts today released demographic data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of California state judges and justices. The information is available on the California Courts Web site at http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_38sb56.htm.

The information is provided in compliance with Government Code section 12011.5(n), which requires the AOC to collect and release aggregate demographic data relative to the ethnicity, race, and gender of California state judges and justices, by specific jurisdiction, on or before March 1 of each year. The statutory requirement was enacted by SB 56 (Dunn, Stats. 2006, ch. 390). The first report was issued March 1, 2007.

The data are displayed in charts that show:

- (1) the overall gender, race, and ethnicity of justices and judges in the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts;
- (2) the gender of justices and judges by jurisdiction—for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal by district, and trial courts by county;
- (3) the race and ethnicity of justices and judges by jurisdiction;
- (4) the race and ethnicity of justices and judges by gender and by jurisdiction;
- (5) the specific race and ethnicity reported by those justices and judges who indicated that they considered themselves to be of more than one race or ethnicity; and
- (6) data comparisons for 2007 and 2008.

The demographic data show an increase in the number of women trial court judges in 2008; women now represent more than 28 percent of the judiciary. The data also show increases in the number of trial court judges in the following race and ethnicity categories: Asian, Black or

(over)

African American, Hispanic or Latino, White, Some Other Race, and More Than One Race. These changes reflect judicial appointments, retirements, and other departures from the bench since February 1, 2007, and information from judges who previously had not provided race and ethnicity information.

Increasing the diversity of California's judicial officers to reflect the rich diversity of California's populace continues to be a key goal of the Judicial Council of California.

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.

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