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Sacramento Court Executive Appointed to AOC Management Post

San Francisco—William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts of California, today announced the appointment of Jody Patel, executive officer of the Superior Court of Sacramento County, as new Regional Administrative Director for the Northern/Central Region for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

“Jody Patel is exceptionally well qualified for this position,” said Mr. Vickrey. “I have had the opportunity to work with her in her current position as court executive officer and in her previous position with the AOC. In all her interactions, she has shown strong organizational and analytical skills and outstanding interpersonal strengths in working with others on complex and controversial matters.”

Chief Justice Ronald M. George praised Ms. Patel’s long career in public service. “For more than 25 years, Jody Patel has steadfastly worked to improve access to justice for the residents of California,” he said. “We look forward to her continued contributions in her important new role.”

Ms. Patel said, “I look forward with anticipation to collaborating directly with the 32 presiding judges and court executive officers in the Northern/Central Region and assisting and advocating on their behalf in the implementation of major Judicial Branch initiatives.”

Before joining the Sacramento court in 2001, Ms. Patel was a manager at the AOC’s Office of Governmental Affairs, representing the judicial branch with the Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst’s Office, and the Legislature on budget issues.

In September 2005, Ms. Patel received the Judicial Council’s Judicial Administration Award for her significant contributions and leadership in court administration.

In addition to her experience in the judicial branch, Ms. Patel has over 20 years of experience in the executive branch of California government

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working at senior management levels including deputy director of a state agency. During this time she played an integral role in revamping statutes on victim restitution and offender accountability by partnering with judges and district attorneys on a statewide basis.

In her new role as Regional Administrative Director, Ms. Patel will work with court leaders from Northern and Central California in improving the administration of justice. She joins two other regional directors at the AOC, Sheila Calabro in the Southern Region and Christine Patton in the Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region, and succeeds Michael Roddy, who in December was named executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County.

“Jody has demonstrated strong leadership ability and is very well situated to assist the courts as we move forward with the multiple initiatives the California judiciary is engaged in,” said AOC Chief Deputy Director Ronald G. Overholt. “We are delighted to have her join our team.”

Court leaders from the 32-county region applauded the appointment.

“Jody’s experience, both at the AOC and with the Sacramento court, give her the insight, poise, and operational background necessary to take on the tremendous challenges associated with this position,” said Presiding Judge Eric Du Temple of the Superior Court of Tuolumne County and former Judicial Council member.

“Jody is an excellent choice and we look forward to working with her in this new role,” said Presiding Judge David Richmond, of the Superior Court of Amador County.

Presiding Judge William J. Murray, Jr., of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County, noted, “I welcome the appointment of Jody Patel as a new regional director of the AOC. Her experience as a court executive and legislative budget advocate make her well qualified to represent the Northern and Central California courts.”

Tamara L. Beard, court executive with the Superior Court of Fresno County and Judicial Council member, said: “I couldn’t be happier that Jody Patel has been appointed to this position. I give her my full support and congratulations, and look forward to working with her.”

Rosa Junqueiro, executive officer of the Superior Court of San Joaquin, said: “I have always looked at Jody as a leader. I am confident she will carry out her new leadership role in our region with the same dedication and professionalism she is known for.”

Terry McNally, executive officer of the Superior Court of Kern County, commented: “Jody Patel’s selection to replace Mike Roddy will prove to be a great asset to the region. I have no doubt that she will be able to continue to build on the positive relationships created since the region’s inception. But just as importantly, her first hand knowledge of state administration, coupled with her court operations experience, will be of immeasurable help

in building a better understanding with the Legislative and Executive branches of the critical issues facing trial courts.

Justice Arthur G. Scotland, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, also welcomed the appointment. “On every occasion when I have worked with Jody in her roles as the trial court executive in Sacramento and as a legislative advocate for the state court system, she has impressed me with her diligence, skills, and professionalism. Jody is highly qualified for this leadership position.”

Ms. Patel will assume her new duties on March 1, 2006.

A map of AOC Regions is posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/aocregoffmap.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 promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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