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Chief Justice George Names Bench Bar Media Steering Committee

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of the Judicial Council’s Bench Bar Media Steering Committee, a panel that will help foster improved understanding and working relationships among California judges, lawyers, and journalists who cover legal issues and the courts.

“By working together, the bench, bar, and news media can improve our understanding of each other’s functions and develop practices in areas of common concern that will improve the operation of the legal system and promote greater public understanding of the courts, “ said Chief Justice George.

The Steering Committee is charged with recommending areas of responsibility and study for a larger Bench Bar Media Committee, to be appointed later this year.

The 14-member steering committee is chaired by California Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno. Members include judges, attorneys, and news media representatives.

A membership roster is attached.

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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Members of the Judicial Council's Bench Bar Media Steering Committee

As of March 1, 2008; expires February 29, 2010

Hon. Carlos R. Moreno, Chair

Associate Justice of the
California Supreme Court
San Francisco

Mr. Ralph Alldredge

Secretary/Treasurer of California Newspaper
Publishers Association
Publisher, Calaveras Enterprise
San Andreas

Ms. Cristina C. Arguedas

Attorney at Law
Arguedas, Cassman, and Headley LLP
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Hon. Steve Cooley

District Attorney
District Attorney's Office
County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles

Hon. Peter Paul Espinoza

Assistant Supervising Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
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Attorney at Law
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP
Los Angeles

Hon. Jamie A. Jacobs-May

Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara
San Jose

Hon. Judith D. McConnell

Administrative Presiding Justice of the
Court of Appeal
Fourth Appellate District
San Diego

Hon. William J. Murray, Jr.

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of San Joaquin
Stockton

Mr. John Raess

Bureau Chief
Associated Press
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Ms. Kelli Sager

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Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Los Angeles

Mr. Peter Scheer

Director of the
California First Amendment Coalition
San Rafael

Mr. Stan Statham

President of the
California Broadcasters Association
Sacramento

Mr. William C. Vickrey

Administrative Director of the Courts
Administrative Office of the Courts
San Francisco