



NEWS RELEASE

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Business Meeting on February 24 in San Francisco

Members to Consider Education Guidelines, Public Trust in Courts, Self-Help Centers, and Other Key Initiatives

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 to 11:10 a.m. on Friday, February 24, at the Judicial Council Conference Center, on the third floor of the Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at this link: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the 28-member council is the administrative policymaking body for California courts. Its members will consider a variety of reports designed to improve state court administration, including the following:

Judicial Branch Education: The Science and Law Steering Committee, appointed last year by Chief Justice George, will recommend guidelines for establishing education in science and technology for judges. The program, to be administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research, would assist judges in evaluating scientific evidence and expert testimony.

Public Trust and Confidence: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the staff agency for the Judicial Council, will report on advisory committees' projects and recommendations for addressing the issues that were raised by the Judicial Council's Public Trust and Confidence Survey, announced last year at a statewide courts meeting.

Key Council Initiatives: The AOC will report on new and ongoing council initiatives on probate conservatorships, domestic violence cases, foster care, and court interpreting in civil cases, and will review court infrastructure issues.

Self-Help Centers: A report will be presented on initiatives to support the trial courts in planning, implementing, and improving assistance for self-represented litigants.

The meeting agenda and reports may be viewed on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age022406.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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