



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Judicial Council Adopts Resolution Declaring Mediation Week March 15-21

San Francisco—At a public meeting yesterday, the Judicial Council of California unanimously adopted a standing resolution recognizing the third week of every March as Mediation Week, to coincide with similar annual actions by other government organizations and leaders.

“Mediation programs offer the public an important alternative to resolving disputes outside the traditional adjudication system,” stated Chief Justice Ronald M. George, chair of the Judicial Council.

“Mediation Week is an opportune occasion to educate the public about the availability and benefits of mediation programs, and to recognize the people who make those programs successful.”

California courts operate and collaborate with mediation programs that help litigants resolve many types of cases, including family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, criminal, and small claims and general civil cases.

Mediation Week will be held this year from March 15 to 21.

For more information about Mediation Week, visit  
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/adr/events.htm> .

In other matters, the council took these actions:

**Civil Discovery:** Adopted rule 3.1015 of the California Rules of Court, effective March 13, 2009, to fill an unintentional one-year gap in the law authorizing deposition subpoenas in actions pending outside of the state. The proposed rule incorporates the language of the predecessor statute into the rules of court so that courts and litigators may continue to act under that rule until a new statute goes into effect in January 2010. The council is developing new deposition subpoena forms for use under the new law, which will be circulated for public comment in April 2009.

(more)

**Access to Visitation Grant Program:** Approved a funding allocation and distribution of approximately \$772,000 in federal Child Access and Visitation Grant funds for fiscal year 2009–2010 to continue specified programs.

**Child Support Program:** Approved the reallocation of funding to child support commissioners and family law facilitators for fiscal year 2008–2009, subject to the state Budget Act. This midyear reallocation process is a review of each court’s program funding, conducted once each year to determine if any adjustment is warranted.

**Conflict of Interest Code:** Approved proposed amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The amendments add and delete designated positions.

The meeting agenda and reports are available on the California Courts Web site:  
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age031209.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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