



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Court of Appeal Selects New Mediation Program Administrator**

### ***Gary Weiner to Head Mediation Program at First Appellate District in San Francisco***

San Francisco—The Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, today announced the selection of Mr. Gary Weiner as the new Mediation Program Administrator. Mr. Weiner will begin his new duties on April 1, 2009.

Attorney Weiner served as director of Sonoma County Alternative Dispute Resolution for the Superior Court of Sonoma County from its inception in 2000 until June 2004. In addition, he has been a mediator for the First Appellate District since 2001.

Mr. Weiner will succeed Mr. John Toker, who retired at the end of December 2008 and will continue to work part-time until the training of the new program administrator is completed. Mr. Toker served as program administrator since 1999, when the program was launched at the First Appellate District.

The Mediation Program Administrator is responsible for ensuring that the mediation program achieves its objectives of providing litigants with mediation opportunities while at the same time continuing the delay reduction goals of the court. While administratively integrated with the First District's Appellate Mediation Committee, the program is independent of the court's judicial function to ensure confidentiality to litigants.

The Court of Appeal is California's intermediate court of review. The First Appellate District—one of six districts in the state—serves the residents of 12 Northern California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma.