



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Chief Justice George Names New Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for Judicial Branch**

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of a new Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch. The purpose of the committee is to promote transparency, accountability, efficiency, and understanding of the work of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the judicial branch.

“The structural changes in the California court system over the last 13 years have dramatically increased the demands of the 58 trial courts on the AOC,” stated Chief Justice George. “As the agency’s responsibilities and services to the courts have increased, so have the resources entrusted to it.”

“We expect that the work of the advisory committee will enable us to increase understanding about the needs of the state judicial branch, as well as ensure measures of transparency and accountability that are appropriate in the use of public resources,” he continued. “At the same time, the additional review of budget requests and audit reports will help the Judicial Council set priorities and meet the needs of state courts and the millions of Californians that we serve.”

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael P. Vicencia, president of the California Judges Association, commented, “I am pleased that the Chief Justice has taken this step toward greater accountability and oversight of the AOC by judges and other members of the judicial branch. As elected members of the branch, it is the responsibility of every judge to ensure public governance. My hope is that this new committee will help fulfill that obligation.”

The 12-member advisory committee is chaired by Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

(over)

(Sacramento). Members include an administrative presiding justice of the state Courts of Appeal; five members of the Judicial Council, who are justices and judges; the chair and vice chair of the council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee; two judicial administrators; one member of the governing board of the California Judges Association; and two representatives of the State Bar.

The position of vice-chair of the council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Committee is now vacant. When that position is filled, the vice-chair will be appointed as a member of the new committee.

The advisory committee will be a standing committee of the Judicial Council, charged with the following responsibilities:

- Each year, prior to submission to the State Department of Finance, review Budget Change Proposals for funding of the AOC and make recommendations to the Chief Justice, Judicial Council, and Administrative Director of the Courts.
- Each year, review proposed changes in the annual compensation plan for the AOC and make recommendations to the Chief Justice, Judicial Council, and the Administrative Director of the Courts. The Chief Justice is charged by law with making the final decision.
- Review all financial audit reports for the Judicial Branch and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the Judicial Council on individual or systemic issues for the Judicial Council's consideration at the time it receives and considers audit reports.
- Advise on other issues related to the committee charge as requested by the Chief Justice, Judicial Council, and Administrative Director of the Courts.

The Chief Justice created the committee as a Judicial Council advisory committee under the authority set forth in the California Rules of Court, rule 10.30(g). Members are appointed for one-year terms.

A membership roster is attached.

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*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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.*

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Appointments effective June 24, 2010, for terms ending June 20, 2011

- Chair: Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal,  
Third Appellate District
- Members: Hon. Peter C. Deddeh, Judge, Superior Court of San Diego County and  
Member, California Judges Association Executive Board
- Hon. Kevin A. Enright, Chair, Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory  
Committee
- Hon. Ira R. Kaufman, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Plumas County
- Ms. Miriam A. Krinsky, Lecturer, School of Public Affairs, University of  
California, Los Angeles, and Attorney at Law
- Hon. William R. McGuiness, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of  
Appeal, First Appellate District
- Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Contra Costa  
County
- Mr. James N. Penrod, Attorney at Law
- Hon. Burt Pines, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Mr. Michael D. Planet, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Ventura  
County
- Ms. Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Marin County
- Hon. Sharon J. Waters, Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Advisory Member: Mr. James Tilton, Retired from State of California, former Secretary,  
California Department of Corrections, and former Program Budget  
Manager, California Department of Finance, Sacramento, California.