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## Supreme Court Appoints New Director of Civil Central Staff

San Francisco — The California Supreme Court today announced the appointment of Emily Graham as director of the court's Civil Central Staff.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George stated, "The court depends upon the professional and highly experienced members of the Civil Central Staff to prepare memoranda on approximately 1,700 petitions for review and related filings in civil matters each year."

"Emily Graham has served the court admirably since joining the Civil Central Staff at its inception in 1989," he continued. "Most members of the Civil Central Staff, like Emily, have substantial experience in private practice, and most have served the court for at least 10 years — many much longer. Emily assumes this new role, directing a staff of 14 other attorneys, with the full confidence and backing of the court."

Justice Marvin R. Baxter, Chairperson of the court's Civil Central Staff committee, stated: "The court has a long tradition of employing professional staff to assist the justices. The Civil Central Staff plays a crucial role in assisting the court to select the civil matters in the approximately 110 cases that the court accepts each year for a written decision. The justices look forward to working with Emily, and are confident that the work of the Civil Central Staff will maintain and reflect the tradition of excellence that is the hallmark of this court."

Graham was admitted to the California Bar in 1981. She spent seven years as a civil litigator, handling Freedom of Information Act, civil rights, and free speech cases. She has previously served as the Civil Central Staff's acting director.

The court also has two other central staffs: the Criminal Central Staff, with 24 attorneys; and the Capital Central Staff, with 10 attorneys.

The Criminal Central Staff, created in 1969, is directed by Norm Vance, who has served the court since 1987 and has been director of that staff for

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the last 15 years. It assists the justices in adjudicating nearly 7,000 petitions for review and original petitions each year regarding criminal appeals, writs of mandate and prohibition, and non-capital habeas corpus petitions.

The Capital Central Staff, created in 2002, is directed by Kaye Reeves, who has served the court since 1991 and has been director of that staff during the past four years. The Capital Central Staff assists the justices in the adjudication of capital appeals and related motions and habeas corpus petitions.

In addition, each justice employs staff attorneys who assist in reviewing petitions, and preparing and critiquing memoranda and draft opinions.

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