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## Chief Justice Announces New Judicial Council Members

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of eight members to the Judicial Council of California, the constitutionally mandated policymaking body of the California courts.

Six appointees were named to three-year terms effective September 15, 2009. They are Judge David S. Wesley, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Judge Erica R. Yew, of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County; Frederick K. Ohlrich, Clerk/Administrator of the Supreme Court of California; Executive Officer Kim Turner, of the Superior Court of Marin County; and Miriam Aroni Krinsky, a public advocate for juvenile justice. Presiding Judge Kenneth K. So, of the Superior Court of San Diego County, was reappointed to a three-year term. Executive Officer Michael M. Roddy, of the Superior Court of San Diego County, was reappointed to a two-year term.

In addition, the new chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee is Presiding Judge Mary Ann O'Malley, of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County. She will serve a one-year term as an advisory member.

Chaired by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council consists of 14 judicial members appointed by the Chief Justice, 4 attorney members appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, 1 member from each house of the Legislature, and 7 advisory members. The Administrative Director of the Courts serves as secretary to the council.

Established by the state Constitution in 1926, the 28-member Judicial Council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in the nation's largest court system. A summary of the appointments follows.

(over)

**Presiding Judge Kenneth K. So**, of the Superior Court of San Diego County, began his judicial career as a San Diego Municipal Court judge in 1994 and was appointed to the superior court in 1998. He served as the supervising criminal judge (1999–2001), as presiding judge and member of the court’s appellate division (2002–2005), and as a member of the court’s executive committee (1999–2001, 2003–present). Before joining the municipal court, he prosecuted criminal cases for the San Diego City Attorney’s Office. He was chief deputy city attorney for the Legislative and Public Affairs Division of the City Attorney’s Office from 1991 to 1994.

Judge So is now an advisory member of the Judicial Council and chairs the council’s Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee. His council experience also includes membership on the Executive and Planning Committee and the Trial Court Budget Working Group. Judge So’s new appointment to the council is for a three-year term as a voting member.

**Judge David S. Wesley**, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, was appointed to the court in 1997. With more than 37 years of experience in criminal law, Judge Wesley takes a special interest in case management. He is currently assigned to a complex felony trial court. His previous judicial assignments include service as supervising judge and assistant supervising judge, overseeing the superior court’s criminal division. He also is a member of the court’s executive committee and director of the Los Angeles Teen Court Program. Before he became a judge, he served as a superior court commissioner to the juvenile court (1995–1997) and as a hearing judge of the State Bar Court (1993–1995). Judge Wesley has 13 years of experience in private law practice and has served in the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office (1972–1981).

In 2007–2008, Judge Wesley was coleader of the Judicial Council’s special team of assigned judges that helped reduce the criminal case backlog in Riverside County. In 2008, he received the Judicial Council’s Jurist of the Year Award for his successful work in Riverside County. Judge Wesley is currently a member of the council’s Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, responsible for rewriting California’s criminal jury instructions in 2005. He is also a member of the council’s Criminal Law Advisory Committee and participates on the Commission for Impartial Courts’ Task Force on Judicial Selection and Retention. Judge Wesley’s appointment to the council is for a three-year term as a voting member.

**Judge Erica R. Yew** was appointed to the Superior Court of Santa Clara County in 2001. She is assigned to the court’s juvenile dependency division and presides over the newly established Family Wellness Court, a \$6.3 million project funded by the federal government and First 5 to serve children under the age of three whose families are dealing with homelessness, poverty, violence, and other social issues. Her immediate past position was as supervising judge for the court’s domestic violence unit. Before her judicial

appointment, Judge Yew worked more than 15 years in private law practice and was a member of the State Bar Board of Governors.

Judge Yew serves on the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and the Kleps Award Committee and conducts bench officer training for the Center for Judicial Education and Research. She has received numerous awards for her community service, including the 1990 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year from the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the 1995 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Human Relations Commission Award of Special Merit for her service to the community. In 2002, she received the Distinguished Recognition Award from the Asian Law Alliance, and in 2005, the Justice Byrl R. Salsman Award for her contributions to the legal profession. Judge Yew is the immediate past-president of the California Asian American Judges Association. Her appointment to the council is for a three-year term as a voting member.

**Presiding Judge Mary Ann O'Malley**, of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County, was appointed to the bench in 1998 and began serving as presiding judge this year. She began her legal career as a law clerk for the District Attorney's Offices in San Francisco and Contra Costa County (1983–1985). She later served as district attorney for Contra Costa County, where she prosecuted a number of high-profile homicide cases.

Judge O'Malley has a wide range of experience in Judicial Council activities. She has represented the courts in Contra Costa County on the council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee since January 1, 2009, and is on that group's executive committee. She has served on a joint legislation working group, the Trial Court Budget Working Group, and the Temporary Judges Working Group and is a former member of the council's Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions. Judge O'Malley is an instructor at the B. E. Witkin Judicial College. She also chairs the Contra Costa Court Training and Education Committee and the county's Court Operations Committee. She was appointed to a one-year term as an advisory member.

**Frederick K. Ohlrich** is Clerk/Administrator of the Supreme Court of California. Before his appointment in 1995, he served as court administrator for the Los Angeles Municipal Court, where he also performed the duties of assistant court administrator (1983–1995). He was court administrator for the Newhall Municipal Court (1976–1983), assistant executive officer for the Ventura County Municipal Court (1974–1976), and deputy sheriff and sergeant in the Ventura County Sheriff's Department (1965–1974).

As Clerk/Administrator of the Supreme Court, Mr. Ohlrich serves on the Judicial Council's Appellate Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the council's Emergency Response and Security Task Force, the Appellate Court Security Committee, and the Working Group on Third-Party Use of Court Facilities. He recently chaired the Performance Measures Committee of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (2008–2009), which

advises the National Center for State Courts on proposed appellate court performance measures. Mr. Ohlrich was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the National Center for State Courts in 1998 and a Judicial Council Distinguished Service Award in 1999. His appointment to the council is for a three-year term as an advisory member.

**Michael M. Roddy** became executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County in 2006, after extensive experience in both county and statewide court administration. From 2001–2006, he was one of the first regional administrative directors of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and established a new regional office for the AOC’s Northern/Central Region. He was executive officer of the Superior Court of Sacramento County (1994–2001) and assistant executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County (1989–1994). In 2001, Mr. Roddy received the Judicial Council’s Distinguished Service Award and in 1996 was honored by the Consumer Attorneys of California as Outstanding Court Administrator of the Year.

Mr. Roddy participates on the council’s Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee and Litigation Management Committee. He is also a member of the Court Executives Advisory Committee, the Emergency Response and Security Task Force, and the Trial Court Budget Working Group. In addition, he serves on the Commission for Impartial Courts’ Steering Committee. He is a former member of the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Jury System Improvements, Probation Services Task Force, and Ad Hoc Committee on Court Security. Mr. Roddy’s new appointment is for a two-year term as an advisory member.

**Kim Turner** was named chief executive officer of the Superior Court of Marin County in 2005 after serving as the court’s assistant chief executive officer for six years (1999–2005). She performed the duties of court chief financial officer for two years before her executive administrative positions (1997–1999). Before joining the court, Ms. Turner worked for the City of San Rafael on a community outreach project and for the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services for nearly 17 years. She serves on the Judicial Council’s Court Executives Advisory Committee and the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee. Ms. Turner’s appointment to the council is for a three-year term as an advisory member.

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky** is an educator, a public advocate for juvenile justice and child welfare, and a former federal prosecutor. She teaches child welfare policy and juvenile law to graduate students at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Policy and to law students at Loyola Law School in Southern California. She recently worked with the AOC Center for Families, Children & the Courts as a special consultant on the creation of the statewide Child Welfare Council and also serves on the council’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. She has testified extensively before legislative, governmental, and judicial bodies; authored numerous articles; and lectured nationwide on criminal law, child welfare, and appellate issues.

As executive director of the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles (2002–2007), Ms. Krinsky managed a court-funded public interest law corporation that represents more than 20,000 abused and neglected youth in the Los Angeles dependency court system. Before that, Ms. Krinsky was a federal criminal prosecutor in the Los Angeles U.S. Attorney’s Office. During her tenure in that office, she served as chief of the general crimes and criminal appellate sections, as chair of the solicitor general’s national appellate advisory group, as well as on a variety of national policy advisory committees. Her accomplishments resulted in her selection by Attorney General Janet Reno for the John Marshall Award, the highest Department of Justice award for appellate work. Ms. Krinsky previously served as president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association—the first lawyer from the public sector to serve in that position—and as chair of the Bench-Bar Coalition. She was appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors to a three-year term as a voting member to the council.

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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 promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*