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Domestic Violence Task Force to Implement Proposals to Improve Courts

Chief Justice Expands Charge of Committee

San Francisco—The Judicial Council’s Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force has been officially charged with implementing the comprehensive guidelines and practices in its final report, it was announced today by Chief Justice Ronald M. George.

In 2005, the 18-member task force was asked to make recommendations to improve the practice, procedure, and administration of cases involving domestic violence allegations in California.

By a unanimous vote last February, the council accepted the task force’s final report, which proposed 139 new guidelines and practices designed to improve the way state trial courts handle these critical cases.

In addition to expanding the charge of the task force, Chief Justice George announced that retired Presiding Justice Laurence Donald Kay, of the First Appellate District, will continue to chair the task force and that the terms of members have been extended to June 30, 2010. The original terms were set to expire on June 30, 2008.

Chief Justice George also appointed two new members: Presiding Judge Colleen Toy White, of the Superior Court of Ventura County, and Judge Steven R. Van Sicklen, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

The task force’s revised duties include the following:

- Implement the guidelines and practices in the Final Report of the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force accepted by the Judicial Council on February 22, 2008;
- Select and refer guidelines and practices, as appropriate, to Judicial Council internal committees, advisory committees, AOC divisions, or other entities for implementation, including preparation of

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suggested legislation, rules, forms, or educational materials to be considered through the normal judicial branch process;

- Collaborate with the Governing Committee for the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) to propose revision of the rules relating to minimum judicial educational requirements to address issues of domestic violence;
- Study the need for additional resources that local courts may require to implement the proposed guidelines and practices; and
- Report progress to the Judicial Council by June 2009.

The new membership roster is attached. More information on the task force and its final report is available online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/advisorycommittees.htm#dvpp> .

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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Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force

Hon. Laurence Donald Kay (Ret.), Chair
Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal,
First Appellate District, Division Four

Hon. Jean Pfeiffer Leonard
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Riverside

Hon. Deborah B. Andrews
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. William A. MacLaughlin
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Mateo

Hon. Jeffrey S. Bostwick
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Mr. James B. Perry
Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Yolo

Hon. Sharon A. Chatman
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Mr. Alan Slater
Chief Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Orange

Hon. Susan P. Finlay (Ret.)
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Hon. Dean Stout
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Inyo

Hon. Mary Ann Grilli
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Hon. Steven R. Van Sicklen
Supervising Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Ms. Tressa S. Kentner
Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino

Hon. Colleen Toy White
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Ventura

Hon. Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Mateo

Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force

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Ms. Bobbie Welling, Lead Staff

Supervising Attorney
Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Administrative Office of the Court

AOC STAFF TO THE TASK FORCE

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Ms. Penny Davis

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Ms. Julia Weber

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