



NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Justice Appoints Incoming CJA President to Judicial Council

San Francisco – Chief Justice Ronald M. George yesterday appointed Judge Mary E. Wiss to the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body for the state courts.

Judge Wiss, of the Superior Court of San Francisco County, will begin a one-year term on the Judicial Council when she takes office as the new president of the California Judges Association (CJA) later this year. She will succeed Presiding Judge Ira R. Kaufman, of the Superior Court of Plumas County.

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 6 advisory members, including the CJA president. The Administrative Director of the Courts serves as secretary to the council.

Judge Wiss was appointed to the Superior Court in 2001, where she currently has a civil trial assignment and is presiding judge of the Appellate Division. Before her appointment to the bench, she maintained her own practice specializing in plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death with an emphasis in medical malpractice. She was also a mediator with the American Arbitration Association. She is the co-author of California Tort Damages published by CEB. She is a past president of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and Queen's Bench.

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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.