



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 50

Release Date: June 13, 2006

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

Administrative Office of the Courts Appoints Judge-in-Residence

San Francisco—California’s Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey today announced the appointment of Judge Leonard P. Edwards as Judge-in-Residence for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judge Edwards is recognized as a national leader in the areas of family and juvenile law and a former member of the Judicial Council of California. He retired last month from the Superior Court of Santa Clara County after 26 years on the bench. In his new assignment, Judge Edwards will work with the AOC’s Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) on programs to improve court services for children and families in California.

The Judge-in-Residence Program was established this year to provide experienced judicial officers with the opportunity to participate in the work of the AOC to improve the administration of the courts. Judge Edwards is the first participant in the program.

In announcing the appointment, Mr. Vickrey said: “In his two-and-a-half decades on the bench, Judge Len Edwards has been an indomitable force in guiding and changing how we view and operate the juvenile and family court system. I am delighted that as the inaugural Judge-in-Residence to the Administrative Office of the Courts, he will continue to inspire others to join him in creating systemic changes to benefit the most vulnerable members of our communities seeking justice in our courts.”

CFCC Director Diane Nunn said “Judge Edwards has for many years been one of the strongest and most compassionate advocates for children and families in California. We are delighted to welcome him to the AOC.”

(over)

In hearing about the appointment, Justice Richard D. Huffman, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One, said: “Judge Edwards is one of the nation's visionary leaders in the field of juvenile law. Having Judge Edwards serve as the first judge-in-residence at the AOC will allow him to bring his vast experience and almost boundless energy to work on issues affecting the juvenile courts throughout the state. What a great opportunity to benefit families and children in California!”

And, Judge Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Los Angeles Superior Court, said: “The juvenile courts of California have received a great benefit as retired juvenile court legend, Judge Leonard Edwards, becomes a full time member of the AOC's Center for Families, Children & the Courts.”

As Judge-in-Residence, Judge Edwards will assess California’s juvenile and family court systems and develop practical and policy recommendations. He also will provide on-site technical assistance as needed and will help establish local commissions on children in foster care.

Judge Edwards will continue to serve as a member of the Judicial Council’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, and will also serve as a resource for a variety of Judicial Council and AOC programs and committees including the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, and the Dependency Representation Administration, Funding, and Training (DRAFT) Pilot Project.

Judge Edwards has served on committees and organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of children and families. In addition to his service on the Judicial Council and the council’s Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, he is the founder and past president of the Juvenile Court Judges of California as well as past-president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Edwards has taught juvenile and family law at the Santa Clara University School of Law, Stanford Law School, and at the B.E. Witkin Judicial College of California. He has also produced several written works that have been used as curricula in universities and law schools.

In 2004 Judge Edwards received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence and was honored as Jurist of the Year by the Judicial Council in recognition for his contributions to families and children.

#

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.