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Judicial Council Releases 2006 Annual Report

Achievements Noted in California Courts, as Judicial Branch Works Together to Increase Access to Justice

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California today released its *2006 Annual Report*, a summary of the judicial branch's significant progress and challenges in improving court administration and equal access for all Californians. The report also highlights the branch's contributions in confronting the state's fiscal challenges and describes key trends in court caseloads and workloads.

The online version of the annual report links readers to other resources on the California Courts Web site, including reports, studies, fact sheets, and additional online resources that provide detailed information on court topics.

The annual report emphasizes the steps taken toward amending article VI, the judicial article of California's Constitution, to protect the public's access to impartial courts and to establish the judiciary as a co-equal branch of government while providing for appropriate accountability to the public for the fair and effective administration of justice.

The report also highlights the Statewide Judicial Branch Conference, the first time that the Judicial Council, the State Bar, and the California Judges Association convened their major conferences at the same time in the same location, bringing together the principal entities of the judicial branch with new opportunities for exchanging ideas and views.

A companion volume, the *Court Statistics Report*, which provides detailed statistical caseload and workload trend data statewide and for each of the 58 counties, was released in May 2006.

For more information or copies of this report, call the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980 or visit the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ar2006.pdf>.

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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.

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