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Judicial Council Takes Action on State Trial Court Budget

San Francisco—At a public meeting today, the Judicial Council of California approved the allocation of \$139.5 million in funding to ensure the continued and effective operations of state trial courts.

“The Judicial Council is committed to maintaining equal access to justice for all Californians,” stated Chief Justice Ronald M. George, chair of the council. “Despite the difficult economic times facing California, our 58 trial courts will be able to maintain core operations, largely due to savings and other prudent fiscal measures undertaken by the judicial branch.”

Chaired by Chief Justice George, the 28-member council allocated funds for key trial court operations, including court security, assigned judges, conservatorship and guardianship reforms, court-appointed counsel in dependency cases, and new discretionary funding for increased court operational costs.

The council also approved the allocation of a one-time \$92 million reduction that was enacted by the Governor and the Legislature as a result of this year’s state budget shortfall.

The budget report approved by the council is available online at:
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/101008item1.pdf> .
Today’s meeting may be heard on an archived audiocast at this link:
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/meetings.htm>.

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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.