



# NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 66

Release Date: October 15, 2007

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](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton  
Public Information Officer

## **Governor Signs Bill Creating 50 New Judgeships for State Trial Courts**

*Chief Justice Applauds Governor and Legislature  
for Helping Ease Severe Judicial Shortage*

San Francisco—Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed Assembly Bill 159 (Jones), critical legislation that will help ease California's severe judicial shortage by creating 50 new trial court judgeships during fiscal year 2007–2008.

"I applaud the Governor for signing this important legislation that will improve access to justice for all Californians," declared Chief Justice Ronald M. George. "I also thank the leaders of the Senate and Assembly for their bipartisan support of Assembly Bill 159."

"Due to dramatic increases in population and new case filings, California trial courts have faced severe judicial shortages for many years," the Chief Justice continued. "The 50 new judgeships created in this bill, coupled with the 50 new positions established last year, will go a long way toward providing Californians with fair, timely, and accessible justice. I look forward to our continued partnership with the legislative and executive branches to meet the state's need for judicial resources."

The Judicial Council, the policymaking body for state courts chaired by Chief Justice George, will also seek a third set of the 50 most urgently needed judgeships in the coming legislative session.

Introduced by Assembly Member Dave Jones, Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, AB 159 also authorizes the conversion of subordinate judicial officers (SJOs) to judgeships in eligible courts as positions become vacant, up to a maximum of 16 per year. The conversion of SJOs will help trial courts manage their calendars by creating a balance between the number of judges and subordinate judicial officers that better reflects the workload of the court.

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The 50 new judges will be allocated according to uniform criteria in the Judicial Council’s judgeship needs study, which is available on the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/022307item9.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/022307item9.pdf). (See page 11 for allocation of judgeships.) The relevant table also appears below.

<b>Court</b>	<b>SB 56 FY 2006– 2007</b>	<b>AB 159 FY 2007– 2008</b>
Butte	1	1
Contra Costa	1	1
Del Norte	0	1
Fresno	4	4
Kern	2	3
Kings	0	1
Los Angeles	2	1
Madera	2	1
Merced	2	2
Monterey	1	1
Orange	1	1
Placer	1	2
Riverside	7	7
Sacramento	5	6
San Bernardino	8	7
San Joaquin	3	3
Shasta	1	1
Solano	1	1
Sonoma	2	1
Stanislaus	3	2
Tulare	2	2
Ventura	1	0
Yolo	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

*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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