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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

Chief Justice Names Judge Sharon Waters To Judicial Council of California

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of Judge Sharon J. Waters, of the Superior Court of Riverside County, as a member of the Judicial Council of California, the administrative policymaking body of the state courts.

Judge Waters will fill the vacancy to be created by the elevation of Judge Jamie Jacobs-May as the new presiding judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, effective January 1, 2009. In keeping with the Judicial Council's practice, Judge May will step down as a council member to allow her more time to lead and advocate for her superior court and to handle the many administrative responsibilities involved in her new position as presiding judge.

Judge Waters' term on the council will be from January 1, 2009, through September 14, 2009, the final date of the term to which Judge Jacobs-May was appointed.

A judge since 1997, Judge Waters has served on the Superior Court of Riverside County since 1998. As presiding judge of the court in 2005–2006, she chaired the Judicial Council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and served as an advisory member of the council. She is a member of council's Task Force on Judicial Selection and Retention, of the Commission for Impartial Courts; the Interim Commission on Civil Fees; and the Presiding Judge and Court Executive Committee of CJER.

Judge Waters also serves on the Bench Bar Coalition and is a former member of the council's Trial Court Budget Working Group, the Enhanced Civil Assessments Working Group, and the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

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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.

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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.