



# NEWS RELEASE

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## California Court Leaders Focus On Judicial Elections, Disaster Planning

### *Special Focus on Attacks Against Judges, Courts*

San Francisco—More than 300 state court leaders will gather here on November 1–3 to explore the challenges that America’s courts face due to recent developments in judicial elections and attacks against judges by political and special interests.

The Summit of Judicial Leaders will feature special guests and other speakers who will provide participants with information on trends developing in many other states and facilitate discussions on what can be done to prevent such developments in California.

Sponsored by the Judicial Council of California, the summit also will take an in-depth look at disaster planning and recovery, featuring speakers from New York and Louisiana with firsthand experience.

Keynote speakers, moderators, and panelists will include:

- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (Ret.)
- Kenneth R. Feinberg, Special Master/Administrator of the federal September 11 Victim Compensation Fund
- Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director, Justice at Stake Campaign
- Hal Dash, President, Cerrell Associates, Inc.
- Professor J. Clark Kelso, McGeorge School of Law
- Deborah Goldberg, Director, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice
- Kathleen Sullivan, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges, LLP
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A summary of special events follows:

**Wednesday, November 1:** A dinner and reception that evening will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Judicial Council and the 10th

(over)

anniversary of Chief Justice Ronald M. George. The guest speaker will be Kenneth Feinberg.

**Thursday, November 2:** An awards luncheon will be held to recognize winners of the Judicial Council of California's Distinguished Service Awards. The winner of the Benjamin J. Aranda Award, cosponsored by the Judicial Council, State Bar, and other groups, also will be announced.

**Thursday, November 2:** An evening with the American Judicature Society, including presentation of the Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence to Chief Justice Ronald M. George. Guests will include Court of Appeal Justice Richard M. Mosk and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

**Friday, November 3:** Justice O'Connor will speak on "Independence of the Judiciary" at the closing luncheon of the summit.

**Note to Editors:** *The news media is welcome to attend plenary sessions. For registration and other information, please call Lynn Holton, Public Information Officer, at 415-865-7726 or [lynn.holton@jud.ca.gov](mailto:lynn.holton@jud.ca.gov).*

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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.*

**2006 Summit of Judicial Leaders  
November 1-3, 2006  
Grand Hyatt, San Francisco  
Sponsored by Judicial Council of California**

**AGENDA** *(Subject to change)*

**Wednesday, November 1, 2006**

- 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
(includes break) "Urgency Before Emergency: Disaster Planning and Recovery"  
Opening Remarks  
Guest Speakers:  
Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge, New York  
Ronald Younkins, Chief of Operations, New York  
Hon. Catherine D. Kimball, Senior Associate Judge, Louisiana  
Dr. Hugh Collins, Judicial Administrator, Louisiana
- 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. Judicial Council's 80th Anniversary and Chief Justice's 10th Anniversary Dinner with inaugural Shapiro Purpose of Justice Lecture by Kenneth R. Feinberg, Master/Administrator of the federal September 11 Victim Compensation Fund.

**Thursday, November 2, 2006**

- 7:00 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. "Judicial Election Reform"  
Welcome: Hon. Carol A. Corrigan, Associate Justice,  
California Supreme Court  
Opening Remarks: "Why Does Judicial Election Reform Matter?"  
Introductions: Hon. Carol. A. Corrigan  
Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California  
Speakers: Hon. Barry Anderson, Associate Justice,  
Minnesota Supreme Court  
Hon. Tom Phillips, Baker Botts LLP,  
former Chief Justice of Texas
- 9:00 a.m. "The National Struggle to Maintain Fair and Impartial Courts"  
Moderator: Hon. William J. Murray, Judge,  
Superior Court of San Joaquin County  
Speakers: Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director,  
Justice at Stake Campaign, Inc.  
James Sample, Associate Counsel,  
Brennan Center for Justice

The speakers will describe current national developments affecting judicial elections that threaten the ability of state judges to maintain fair and impartial

courts and uphold the rule of law. They will then survey the audience's reactions.

- 10:20 a.m. Break
- 10:35 a.m. Debate: "Are Judicial Elections Really Different?"
- Moderator: Professor J. Clark Kelso, McGeorge School of Law  
Yes Kathleen Sullivan, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart, Oliver & Hedges, LLP  
No James Bopp, Jr., Bopp, Coleson & Bostrom
- 11:20 a.m. Debate (continued); Audience Q & A  
Moderator: Professor J. Clark Kelso
- 11:45 a.m. Break
- 12:15 p.m. Awards Luncheon
- 2:00 p.m. "Judicial Independence: Speaking to American Values"
- Speakers: Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director  
Justice at Stake Campaign, Inc.  
Sally Stewart, President, SA Stewart Communications
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. "The National Struggle to Maintain Fair and Impartial Courts"  
(Part 2)
- Moderator: To be announced  
Speakers: Bert Brandenburg  
Charlie Geyh, Professor, University of Indiana School of Law; Co-  
reporter, American Bar Association Joint Commission to  
Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct  
Deborah Goldberg, Director, Democracy Program,  
Brennan Center for Justice
- 4:30 p.m. Evening Event and Reception: American Judicature Society  
Dwight D. Opperman Award presentation

### **Friday, November 3, 2006**

- 7:00 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 8:00–9:45 a.m. "The Challenge of Maintaining Fair and Impartial Courts in California"
- Moderator: Hon. Maria P. Rivera, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal,  
First Appellate District
- Speakers: Chris Arriola, President, Santa Clara Bar Association  
Hal Dash, President, Cerrell Associates, Inc.  
Hon. Terry B. Friedman, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles  
County
- 9:45–10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00–11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
1. Structural Solutions
  2. Code of Judicial Conduct
  3. Judicial Campaign Finance Reform
  4. Nonregulatory Approaches

Four to six concurrent sessions will focus on one of four areas of potential solutions. A facilitator will moderate interactive audience discussion. One or two experts will serve as resources to each concurrent session.

11:00–11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30  
p.m.

Reports, Wrap-Up, and Closing Remarks

12:30–2:30 p.m.

Closing Luncheon

Special Guest Speaker: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret.)