



**NEWS RELEASE** OC 03-10  
Contact: Daisy Yee, 415-865-8929

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 4, 2010

## **Report Releases Additional Findings from a Statewide Study of California Class Action Litigation**

### *Second Installment Delivers First-of-its-kind Analysis of Class Certification*

San Francisco—The second report from the largest-ever statewide study of California class action litigation was released today. The latest report supplies focused analyses of class certification in class action cases filed in California between 2000 and 2006. The study was undertaken by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in collaboration with the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

The report concludes that overall class certification in California declined over the study years. In addition, the analyses show that the rate of certification through a litigated motion for certification is low and the vast majority of classes are certified through a classwide settlement agreement.

The report also found:

- The rate of cases filed as class action that show no certification activity after the initial filing increased significantly over the study years;
- Employment cases have the highest rate of class certification;
- Time to disposition in cases with a certified class is nearly twice as long as in cases without a certified class; and
- Considering cases that had a certified class and ended in a settlement disposition, the data do not support the conclusion that the certification decisions forced settlement.

To see this report and a fact sheet describing the Study of California Class Action Litigation, go to [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/caclassactlit.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/caclassactlit.htm). The final installment in the report series will focus on case outcome analyses and will be released when completed. For further information, contact Hilary Hehman of the AOC's Office of Court Research at [hilary.hehman@jud.ca.gov](mailto:hilary.hehman@jud.ca.gov) or 415-865-7786.

###

*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.*