



NEWS RELEASE OC 54-11
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chief Justice Names Court Facilities Working Group Members *Committee will oversee facilities construction and maintenance program*

SAN FRANCISCO—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye today named the members of a new Court Facilities Working Group, which will provide ongoing oversight of the statewide program that maintains, renovates, and rebuilds courthouses.

“In this era of severe budget constraints and shifting priorities, providing safe, secure, functional courthouses remains a critical priority that we must balance with other challenges,” the Chief Justice said in announcing the working group. “This group will provide comprehensive oversight to ensure that we make good decisions and maximize our limited resources in this crucial area.”

Under the leadership of Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District in Fresno, the new working group will oversee the work of the Administrative Office of the Courts in its management of 20 million square feet of court facilities statewide, as well as a building program of more than 50 courthouse projects over the next several years. The working group will provide ongoing oversight of policy issues, business practices, and budget monitoring and control and make recommendations as necessary to the Judicial Council.

The 25-member committee (roster attached below) consists of active and retired justices and judges, court executive officers, members of the State Bar, local government leaders, and industry leaders. Representatives from the trial courts range from the state’s largest to smallest courts.

Justice Hill has long experience with the judicial branch’s facilities goals, needs, and challenges, having served two terms on the Judicial Council, from 2000 to 2003 and from 2007 to 2010. Between those terms, he chaired the California Facilities Transitional Task Force, which oversaw development of strategies for the transfer of more than 500 court facilities from county to state responsibility. More recently, he chaired a working group that oversaw development of policies for third-party use of court facilities.

“The state Legislature has swept \$310 million this year from the judicial branch’s fund for immediate and critical needs of court construction and modification,” Justice Hill said. “We will have to review the program’s priorities to make sure we can continue to make the most of the resources left to us.”

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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.

Court Facilities Working Group

As of July 2011

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair

Administrative Presiding Justice of the
Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

Hon. Robert D. Foiles

Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of San Mateo

Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Vice-Chair

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley

Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Shasta

Mr. Michael J. Bocchicchio, AIA

Former Associate Vice-President, University
of California System and
Former State Architect of California

Hon. William F. Highberger

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. Donald Cole Byrd

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Glenn

Hon. Jamie A. Jacobs-May (Ret.)

Retired Judge, Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi

Attorney at Law

Hon. Jeffrey W. Johnson

Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal,
Second Appellate District, Division One

Mr. Stephan Castellanos, FAIA

Principal Architect
Derivi Castellanos Architects
Former State Architect of California

Hon. Laura J. Masunaga

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Siskiyou

Hon. Candace D. Cooper (Ret.)

Retired Justice, Court of Appeal,
Second Appellate District

Mr. Stephen Nash

Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino

Hon. Keith D. Davis

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino

Hon. Gary R. Orozco

Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Fresno

Hon. Samuel K. Feng

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

Court Facilities Working Group

As of July 2011

Hon. David Edwin Power

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Solano

Ms. Linda Romero Soles

Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Merced

Mr. Larry Spikes

County Administrative Officer
County of Kings

Mr. Kevin Stinson

Assistant Clerk Administrator
Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District,
Division Three

Mr. Val Toppenberg

Consultant
Former Redevelopment Director for City of
West Sacramento and for City of Merced

Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta

Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Ms. Ellen Warner

Partner
David S. Taylor Interests, Inc.

Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

Attorney at Law