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Forum Focuses on Impact of Court Budget Cuts on Families and Children

SAN FRANCISCO—The Administrative Office of the Courts hosted a forum Wednesday for California’s statewide leadership to discuss the effects of crushing state budget cuts that threaten access to the state courts at a time when they are most needed by vulnerable children and families. The event was funded with a grant provided by the California Endowment and the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Participants from family, juvenile, and tribal courts; the bar; court, community, and justice system professionals; and legislative and executive branch representatives shared information and strategy on cost-cutting as well as compassionate and collaborative approaches to bridging the gaps in service to California court users.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye delivered closing remarks at the forum. “We all know that the state budget cuts, combined with the general economic downturn, threaten to fall hardest on this state’s most vulnerable children and families and communities,” she said. “It is the kind of work you did here today that will help us protect these communities and pull us through to better times.”

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