



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Judicial Council to Hold Public Business Meeting on Friday, April 29

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2011, in the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Chaired by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the council is the administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts website at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/3044.htm>. Meeting materials are available at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/age20110429.pdf>.

At this public session, the Judicial Council will be briefed on two statewide initiatives— court facilities and the California Court Case Management System (CCMS.) AOC Chief Deputy Director Ron Overholt will report on several court construction projects in the state. Justice Terence Bruiniers, chair of the CCMS Executive Committee, will present a status report on the project and the progress on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Bureau of State Audits in its review of the project.

Other reports on the council's agenda include the following:

Mental Health Task Force: The Judicial Council's Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues will present its final report and recommendations to the council. The recommendations provide a framework for improving practices and procedures in cases involving both adult and juvenile offenders with mental illness.

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act: The council will consider a recommendation that it award \$9.5 million in grants to seven qualified legal service organizations and court partners for pilot projects to provide legal representation and improved court procedures for eligible low-

income litigants in civil cases affecting basic human needs.

Judicial Branch Education: The council will consider a report evaluating the implementation of the judicial branch education program during its first three-years (2007-2009). The program, authorized by the California Rules of Court, is designed to fulfill the council's goal to provide education and professional development to enhance the ability of all individuals serving in the judicial branch to attain high standards of professionalism, ethics, and performance. The council also will hear a report on four educational partnerships that have resulted in successful degree- or certificate-bearing programs for current and prospective court employees.

Court Awards: Recipients of the 2010-2011 Ralph N. Kleps Awards will be recommended to the council. The annual awards honor courts for implementing innovative programs that improve the administration of justice.

New Inyo County Courthouse: The council will consider a recommendation that the new Inyo County Courthouse should be built in the Bishop area because that location would improve access to justice for the majority of Inyo County residents.

Telephone Appearances: The council will consider a recommendation to amend rule 3.670 of the California Rules of Court to establish the fees to be charged by vendors and courts for parties to appear by telephone at court hearings and conferences. The fees would implement Senate Bill 857, the 2010 budget trailer bill that requires the Judicial Council to establish statewide, uniform telephone appearance fees by July 1, 2011.

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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.

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