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Chief Justice Reappoints Judges Baker and O'Malley to Judicial Council

San Francisco—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has reappointed Judge Stephen H. Baker, of the Superior Court of Shasta County, and Judge Mary Ann O'Malley, of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County, to the Judicial Council of California for three-year terms beginning September 15, 2011.

This is the first full three-year term as a voting member on the council for each judge. The judges have served on the council for several months, filling terms vacated by other members, and Judge O'Malley previously served in an advisory nonvoting capacity as chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee.

Chaired by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, the Judicial Council is the policymaking body of California courts. The council comprises 14 judicial members appointed by the Chief Justice, 4 attorney members appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, 1 member from each house of the Legislature, and 10 advisory members.

Judge Baker has served on the Judicial Council since September 15, 2010, and is completing the term of Judge Dennis E. Murray, who retired from the Superior Court of Tehama County before his term on the council expired. Judge Baker served on the council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee from 2008 to 2010 and was a member of its executive committee. He has also served on the Court Technology Advisory Committee, the Trial Court Budget Working Group, and various committees and working groups focused on judicial branch leadership, judicial education, and public outreach. Judge Baker is a current member of the Bench-Bar Coalition's executive committee.

Appointed to the bench in 2003, Judge Baker was elected as both assistant presiding judge and presiding judge of his court. From 2005 to 2008, he served in the superior court's appellate division. Before joining the bench, Judge Baker practiced law for 17 years, specializing in employment/labor law and civil litigation. He also served as an administrative hearing officer and presented employment law seminars to a variety of public and private

entities.

Judge O'Malley was appointed to the council on January 1, 2011, to complete the last few months of the term of Presiding Judge Lee Smalley Edmon, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, who became presiding judge on that date. Judge O'Malley previously served as a nonvoting advisory member, as a result of a one-year term as chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee.

Judge O'Malley has served on the Trial Court Budget Working Group since 2009 and is a member of the Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency and the council's Rules and Projects Committee. She is a former member of the council's Executive and Planning Committee.

In addition, she has served on the Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, the Public Access Rule of Court Working Group, and the Judicial Recruitment and Retention Working Group. She is an instructor at the B. E. Witkin Judicial College, New Judge Orientation, and the Continuing Judicial Studies Program of the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) and serves on the CJER Criminal Law Education Committee and Criminal Law Curriculum Committee.

Judge O'Malley was appointed to the Superior Court of Contra Costa County in 1998. She was supervising judge of the court's criminal division from 2005 to 2009 and was elected presiding judge in 2008. She began her legal career as a law clerk for the district attorney's offices in San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties (1983–1985). She later served as deputy district attorney for Contra Costa County, where she prosecuted a number of high-profile homicide cases (1985–1998).

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.