



Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts
Office of Communications, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
California Courts Infoline 800-900-5980, www.courts.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: [Deborah Genzer](mailto:Deborah.Genzer@courts.ca.gov), 415-865-8755

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2013

Civic Learning California Summit: Feb 28

Summit brings together leaders from education, law, organized labor, business, and government to examine civic literacy in California

SAN FRANCISCO—California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and a committee of civic leaders organized a summit to examine successes and barriers to increasing civic literacy in California. The Civic Learning California Summit: Making Democracy Work, will take place on February 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Secretary of State Auditorium, 1500 11th Street, in Sacramento.

The [summit agenda](#) features U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who will be the summit keynote speaker. She brings her national leadership on the civic education crisis to California. In addition, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye will provide opening and closing remarks.

“We hope this summit raises awareness about the important role and need to improve civic learning so Californians fully understand how our democracy works,” said Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye. “The strength of our democratic institutions relies on the public’s understanding of those institutions. Democracy depends on the civic engagement of its people.”

Additional speakers at the summit include Senate President Pro tem Darrell Steinberg, Secretary of State Debra Bowen, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and other leaders from education, law, labor, business, and community organizations.

The summit will also recognize the winners of the [Civic Learning Award](#) for California public high schools. The awards will spotlight successful efforts to engage students in civic learning and identify models that can be replicated in other schools. The award program is co-sponsored by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

Led by the Chief Justice, the Civic Learning Summit was organized by its [steering committee](#), which included leaders and experts from the legal and education community. Funding for the summit is generously provided by the California Bar Foundation and State Bar of California.

###

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.