



**MEDIA ADVISORY** MA 08-09  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 3, 2009

## **Elkins Family Law Task Force to Hear from Family Law Litigants and Advocates**

**WHO:** [Elkins Family Law Task Force](#)

**WHAT:** The Elkins Family Law Task Force will convene a one-day [meeting](#) to provide a special opportunity for family law litigants and advocates to address the task force directly. For further information, contact Katie Howard at [katie.howard@jud.ca.gov](mailto:katie.howard@jud.ca.gov)

**WHEN:** Monday, April 6, 2009  
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Judicial Council Conference Center  
Milton Marks Auditorium (lower level)  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

**WHY:** The [Litigant and Advocate Input Group](#) was formed to allow the task force to hear directly from litigants and advocates about how to improve the processes for everyone involved in family law proceedings. Throughout its work, the task force has sought input from individuals and organizations with experience and interest in California's family courts, through focus groups, a survey of attorneys, and extensive opportunities for public input via the task force's Web site, letters, and phone calls. Public comment is also a regular part of in-person task force meetings.

Hon. Laurie D. Zelon, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, and chair of the Elkins Family Law Task Force, explained: "Consistent with the task force's values of inclusiveness and collaboration, we hope to gain additional information and perspectives by seeking the views of the litigants on whose behalf we will make recommendations. We are at an important juncture in our work and are beginning to formulate draft recommendations. It's an ideal time to hear more from the people who have used our courts and can speak from their experiences about what's working well and what needs to be improved."

The task force has requested input from litigants and advocates on the following general questions:

- What's working well in family court?
- What needs to be improved in family court?
- What's needed to remove barriers?
- What services do litigants need most?
- What specific suggestions do court users or advocates have?

The task force also welcomes input on the [focus areas](#) that it has developed. For additional information about the Elkins Task Force, see the [fact sheet](#).

To learn about the Litigant and Advocate Input Group, go to <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/tflists/elkins-litadvgroup.htm>.

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