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Contact: Philip R. Carrizosa, 415-865-8044

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Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye Endorses CCMS *Program's Judicial Oversight Provides Focus*

SAN FRANCISCO—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye endorsed the implementation and benefits of the California Court Case Management System (CCMS) in a speech Monday before an audience of judges, court executives, and justice system partners at the CCMS Governance Conference in San Francisco.

“When I am asked why we continue to invest in CCMS even in the face of budget reductions, my response is that I cannot think of a better investment in the future of our courts, or for that matter our courts here and now,” she said.

Cantil-Sakauye said that failure to adopt CCMS would put California in danger of falling behind other states in the ability to deliver justice swiftly and transparently. And while acknowledging that this investment is certainly a fiscal challenge, she cited President Obama’s analogy from his State of the Union speech by noting that abandoning it would be akin to “eliminating the engine on an overloaded airplane to lighten its load.”

The new governance structure for the CCMS [program](#) involves extensive judicial oversight. Justice Terence L. Bruiniers chairs the CCMS Executive Committee. Eight of the 13 members of this committee are justices or judges. Membership of the entire governance structure includes 27 trial courts, 20 trial court judges, 19 court executives, three appellate justices, and representatives from justice system partners and the bar.

“Judges with active calendars know what they and their staffs need to be effective,” Bruiniers said. “Our governance ensures that the final product will be the best possible system for serving courts and citizens.”

At the Governance Conference, judges and court executives from San Diego, Orange, and Ventura noted that they have had much success in using the pilot-project CCMS interim system for civil case management. “Judges, staff members and those having business with the courts in those jurisdictions have said that CCMS improves efficiency, ensures justice through its ability to get the courts all the pertinent information regarding pending cases, and reduces errors,” Bruiniers said.

“Ultimately, we want the public, the courts, law enforcement, and social service agencies to obtain immediate access to vital and timely court case information,” he continued. “CCMS provides all that. The development phase will be completed in April and be deployed initially to three courts—San Diego, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo.”

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.