



Judicial Council of California
Court Facilities Advisory Committee

www.courts.ca.gov/cfac.htm
cfac@jud.ca.gov

COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

August 24, 2023
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Public Videocast

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego
Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi
Hon. Keith D. Davis (Ret.)
Hon. Robert D. Foiles
Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.)
Ms. Krista LeVier
Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)
Mr. Lee Seale
Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Patricia M. Lucas (Ret.), Vice-Chair
Mr. Stephan Castellanos, FAIA
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley
Hon. William F. Highberger
Mr. Larry Spikes

Others Present: The following Judicial Council staff were present:

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Pella McCormick, Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Principal Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Maggie Stern, Attorney II, Judicial Council Legal Services
Ms. Sadie Varela, Facilities Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, introductions were made, and roll was taken.

Public Videocast

A live videocast of the meeting was made available to the public through the advisory body web page on the California Courts website listed above.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory committee voted—with abstention of members absent from the meeting and exception of Presiding Judge Donald Cole Byrd, Ex-Officio non-voting member—to approve the minutes of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee’s (CFAC) Subcommittee on Courthouse Names meeting held on August 11, 2023. (*Motion: Davis; Second: Power*)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1**Proposal to Name New Courthouse in Downtown Sacramento**

Summary: Judicial Council Facilities Services is currently managing the construction of a capital outlay project in downtown Sacramento to provide a new courthouse for the Superior Court of Sacramento County. The CFAC reviewed the proposal to name this courthouse including the recommendation from its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names that the courthouse should be named after former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Previously at a public meeting on August 11, 2023, the CFAC’s Subcommittee on Courthouse Names voted to recommend the former chief justice’s name of the three names it reviewed, which were to name the new courthouse after (1) its location, Downtown Courthouse; (2) the former Chief Justice, Tani Cantil-Sakauye; or (3) a former judge and court executive officer, Lloyd Connelly.

Mr. Chris Magnusson presented this item consistent with the meeting materials, which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting and available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20230824-materials.pdf. At presentation slide 14, Judge Keith D. Davis, chair of the CFAC Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, stated the subcommittee’s naming recommendation in favor of the former chief justice, noting it was unanimous as the former chief justice has had a broad and deep impact and influence on the judiciary, on various legal organizations and bar associations, and on specialty bar groups throughout the state; that her ties to Sacramento are well known; and that her impact has been far and wide having served 12 years as chief justice in addition to decades of experience and tenure on the bench. He also noted the subcommittee was made aware of the significant contribution Judge Connelly has made to his court and to Sacramento County

In addition, the advisory committee made the following comments:

- Courthouses are venerated buildings that can be inspirational for the work that transpires within them, and given their symbolism, there is no better person than the former chief justice who stands as such a symbol of justice. Her commitment and extraordinary service and dedication over the past 12 years of her term as chief justice have been unparalleled, having started at the time of the

Great Recession followed by the Pandemic. The letters of support that have been submitted reflect the inspiration she created during that time:

- As stated in the letter from the Cruz Reynoso Bar Association (CRBA): *Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has left an indelible mark upon our state’s system of justice. She is renowned in our statewide legal community as a leader and model who inspires others to break down barriers, paving a path for others to follow in her footsteps of service through one’s dedication to equity and access to justice. The CRBA can think of no better individual for whom the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento downtown courthouse should be named after.*
 - As stated in the letter from the Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association (SacFALA) and the SacFALA Board: *Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye truly embodies the best of Sacramento and California. A Filipina, a child of immigrants, a product of California’s public schools, she has consistently and continuously served all the people of California with integrity and a profound sense of conviction, not from an ivory tower but from a place of extraordinary understanding, empathy and caring.*
 - As stated in the letter from Presiding Justice Laurie M. Earl, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District: *Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is a person who embodies “justice,” defined in Webster’s dictionary as “the quality of being just, impartial, or fair; conformity to this principle or ideal: righteousness.” Naming the new courthouse after Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye would be a deserved honoring of her work. Naming the courthouse after a person synonymous with “justice,” would be a deserved honoring of our community.*
- The former chief justice was one of the most effective and inspiring chief justices in the history of the branch. She took office under very adverse circumstances, one of the worst economic downturns any of the committee members have seen. She had to deal with the unprecedented issues of the global pandemic and at the same time important issues of social justice. She was always at the forefront of access to justice. She was a reformer and a role model. The CFAC could not do better than to name the new courthouse after her.
 - The former chief justice was strong in promoting access to justice but was also strong in promoting the independence of the courts, providing lawyers the opportunity for input through the judicial system including participation on the Judicial Council.
 - Naming the new courthouse after the former chief justice is inspiring and an inspired choice. She’s been a visionary leader, one who has led the judicial branch into the future but at the same time maintaining access and ensuring access to all, making that as a centerpiece of her time as chief justice. Having her name on a courthouse, in the court where she served, is an honor not only for her but more importantly for the Sacramento community and for us all, to have such an inspiring leader grace the new courthouse.

Action: The advisory committee—with abstention of Mr. Lee Seale and exception of Presiding Judge Donald Cole Byrd, Ex-Officio non-voting member—voted to approve the following motions:

1. Recommend to the Judicial Council that the new courthouse is named after the former chief justice, as the *Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse*. (*Motion: Capozzi; Second: Davis*)
2. Delegate to the CFAC Chair and Vice-Chair review and approval of the committee’s report to the Judicial Council. (*Motion: Davis; Second: Power*)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on September 25, 2023.