

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains a central figure holding a scale and a sword, surrounded by the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" and the year "1926".

# Sargent Shriver Civil Representation Pilot Program

Justice Laurie D. Zelon

# AB 590 – 2009 (Feuer)

- Pilot projects to test impact of providing counsel in critical civil cases
  - 1) Provide services
  - 2) Provide basis for evaluation of impact of lawyers



# Structure for Pilot

- Lead legal services agency which works with others who help with conflicts, multiple representation
- Partnership with the court which is to provide services to assist those litigants who remain unrepresented
- Regular meetings of all partners



# Evaluation – January 2016

Impact of counsel on equal access to justice

Effect on court administration & efficiency

Enhanced coordination between courts, governmental service providers, community resources

Benefits of providing representation for clients and the courts



# Funding

- From designated post-judgment filing fees
- Anticipated to be \$11 million
- 2011 - \$9.5 million
- 2014 - \$7.8 million



# First cycle of grants

9.5 million distributed to:

- 6 housing projects
- 3 custody projects
- 1 probate guardianship/  
conservatorship project



# Evaluation commenced

- Common data across programs
- Site visits and interviews
- Court file review
- Client interviews
- Collection of data for cost-benefit analysis



# Recommendation process

- Legislatively mandated committee
- RFP issued
- All proposals considered by the committee





# Guiding principles

- Legislative priority to existing successful programs
- Maintenance of projects to allow for thorough evaluation as required by statute



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**Unanimous  
Recommendations  
from  
committee**

# 1) Fund Existing Programs

Kern

Los Angeles

San Diego

Northern Santa Barbara county

San Francisco

Yolo



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OF CALIFORNIA

## 2) Level of funding

- Amount legal services program received last year or amount of request (whichever is less)
- Highest amount court spent in last three years



### 3) Potential increases

Since no increases to address increased costs

Programs getting less than what was requested

Thus, if additional funding is received, distribute pro rata

