



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 30

Release Date: July 5, 2011

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courts.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

Chief Justice Appoints Justice Douglas P. Miller to Chair Executive and Planning Committee

Justice Harry E. Hull, Jr. to Head Rules and Projects Committee

San Francisco—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has appointed Associate Justice Douglas P. Miller of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Riverside), to chair the Judicial Council’s Executive and Planning Committee and Associate Justice Harry Hull, Jr., of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District (Sacramento), to chair the council’s Rules and Projects Committee.

Justice Miller, who previously chaired the Rules and Projects Committee, succeeds Associate Justice Richard D. Huffman, who recently stepped down after leading the Executive and Planning Committee for 14 years. Justice Hull replaces Justice Miller on the Rules and Projects Committee. Both assumed their new positions July 1.

“I have long admired Justice Miller’s and Justice Hull’s collaborative skills and I look forward to working with them to guide California’s judicial branch during these extremely difficult economic times,” said Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye. “I am sure that everyone in the California court system will welcome Justice Miller’s and Justice Hull’s new roles with open arms and in the spirit of cooperation.”

The Executive and Planning Committee is one of five internal committees of the Judicial Council. It sets the agenda for the council’s meetings, develops the council’s long-range strategic plan for the judicial branch, directs the nominations process for vacancies on the council and its advisory committees, and oversees specific advisory committees and task forces. The Rules and Projects Committee oversees the development and approval of the California Rules of Court, the California Standards of Judicial Administration, and Judicial Council forms.

(more)

Justice Miller said he intends to visit with trial court leaders around the state so he can listen to their concerns, particularly in light of a \$350 million reduction in state funding for the state courts for the 2011–2012 fiscal year that began on July 1. “I am honored to have been asked to serve in this capacity by the Chief Justice,” he said. “I think that the courts face difficult and challenging times and I am committed to involving the judicial branch and the Judicial Council in solving the issues that confront us.”

“I appreciate the Chief Justice’s confidence in my ability to chair the Rules and Projects Committee,” said Justice Hull. “I will make every effort to be an effective chair of the committee.” Justice Hull added that he will be soliciting input from justices, judges, attorneys, and members of the public in his new role. “Our rules of court and judicial administration standards provide access to our courts, as do the Judicial Council forms. The forms themselves are downloaded more than 7 million times a year, so it’s very important that all voices are heard.”

Justice Miller was appointed to the appellate bench in 2006 and served in the Superior Court of Riverside County (1995–2006), where he was both presiding judge and assistant presiding judge (2001–2004). He was a member the council’s Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and vice-president of the California Judges Association (2001–2002). He was also on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and was chair of the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Judicial Campaign Conduct, which was a task force of the council’s Commission for Impartial Courts and developed recommendations on ethical and professional conduct by judicial candidates for the commission. He also is a member of the commission’s implementation committee, which is charged with implementing recommendations by the commission’s four separate task forces to improve judicial elections.

Justice Miller has also served on the Bench-Bar Coalition since 2004 and the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice since 2008. He has been a member of the Continuing Judicial Studies Program Education Committee since 2007. From 2004 to 2006, he served on the Judicial Council as a trial court voting member; his term ended when he was named to the appellate court. He was appointed to the council in 2010 for a three-year term.

Justice Hull was appointed to complete the term previously held by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye when she served on the Court of Appeal, effective through September 14, 2011, and will serve a new three-year term through September 14, 2014.

Justice Hull began his judicial career in 1995 when he was appointed to the Superior Court of Sacramento County. In late 1997, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal and was confirmed in early 1998. He has served on the council’s Appellate Advisory Committee since 2008 and is a former member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions

(2003–2008) and the Task Force on Jury Instructions, Civil Subcommittee (1997–2003.) In addition, he currently chairs the Third Appellate District’s Appellate Mediation Committee.

-#-

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 ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.