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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

## Justice Richard Huffman To Depart Judicial Council on June 30

San Francisco—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye today announced the resignation of Court of Appeal Justice Richard D. Huffman as a member of the Judicial Council of California.

Justice Huffman, a widely respected court leader in California, will remain on the Judicial Council until June 30, 2011, and will continue to chair the council's Executive and Planning Committee until that time.

Justice Huffman, an associate justice of the Fourth Appellate District, Division One, in San Diego, is one of three Court of Appeal justices who serve on the 31-member council, the policymaking body of California courts.

"I have enjoyed my many years of service on the Judicial Council, and am now looking for other opportunities to contribute to the judicial branch," said Justice Huffman. "I plan to remain active on California's Blue-Ribbon Commission for Children in Foster Care, and will continue to work with the AOC's Center for Families, Children & the Courts on issues that are important to me."

"Justice Huffman has served on the Judicial Council with wisdom, grace, and good humor for the past 14 years," stated Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, chair of the council. "He has made many valuable contributions to the administration of justice as a member of the council, as chair of the Executive and Planning Committee since 1997, and as a member of numerous council committees. He informed me several days ago that he will depart the council later this year. I shall miss his wise counsel."

Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey stated, "Justice Huffman has made extraordinary contributions to the judiciary and to the public as a member of the Judicial Council. As chair of the council's Executive and Planning Committee, he facilitates contributions from all members, ensuring that all points of view are aired. In participating with the Judicial Council as a whole, he has always voted his own conscience based on the merits of the issues. He is a strong, tireless advocate for the

independence and discretion of judges in addressing the cases before them and ensuring that the public has equal access to justice across California.”

Mr. Vickrey added, “Justice Huffman is true to his convictions and leads by example, demonstrating his commitment to children and families in our justice system by stepping down each year from his position on the Court of Appeal to accept assignments to the San Diego juvenile or dependency court for a period of weeks. In his 14 years on the Judicial Council, Justice Huffman has sacrificed substantial personal time to carry out his council responsibilities. I am pleased that he will continue to be involved in ensuring implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care and in other areas, and hope that he will be able to fulfill other leadership roles in our branch in the future.”

As chair of the Executive and Planning Committee, Justice Huffman has led initiatives on the judicial branch budget process, strategic planning, governance issues, and policymaking on trial court facilities issues. Justice Huffman has also been a leader in family and juvenile law for many years.

*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.*

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