

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Justice Names New Chair, Members of Accountability Committee

State Panel Promotes Transparency in Judicial Branch

San Francisco—Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye today announced the appointment of Justice Richard D. Huffman, of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, as chair of the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch.

The Chief Justice also named Court of Appeal Justice Kathleen E. O’Leary as vice-chair and expanded the committee’s membership to represent a broad cross-section of California courts from various geographical areas.

Created in June 2010 by former Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the purpose of the committee is to promote transparency, accountability, efficiency, and understanding of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the judicial branch.

The advisory committee is charged with the following responsibilities and making recommendations to the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council, and the Administrative Director of the Courts:

- Make recommendations each year on any Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) for funding of the AOC prior to submission to the State Department of Finance. Such recommendations would be based upon information in the BCPs and a review of information on budget and staffing levels at the AOC.
- Make recommendations each year on any proposed changes in the annual compensation plan for the AOC. Such recommendations would include a review of compensation adjustments of comparable entities in the judicial branch and in state and local government. The Chief Justice is charged by law with making the final decision.

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- Review all audit reports for the Judicial Branch, including appellate courts, trial courts and the AOC, and where appropriate, make recommendations on individual or systemic issues for the Judicial Council's consideration at the time it receives and considers audit reports.
- Make recommendations on any practices that will promote efficiency in the Judicial Branch.
- Make recommendations on any practices that will improve financial accountability in the Judicial Branch.
- Advise on other issues related to the committee charge as requested by the Chief Justice, Judicial Council, or the Administrative Director of the Courts.

The committee was created as a Judicial Council advisory committee under the authority set forth in the California Rules of Court, rule 10.30(g). A membership roster is attached.

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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.

Membership Roster

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Effective July 1, 2011, under California Rules of Court, rule 10.30(b), the following appointments were made to the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch:

Hon. Richard D. Huffman, Chair,
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal,
Fourth Appellate District, Division One
San Diego

Hon. Kathleen E. O'Leary, Vice Chair,
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal,
Fourth Appellate District, Division Three
Santa Ana

Hon. David W. Abbott
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento

Hon. Lorna A. Alksne
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Hon. Larry W. Allen
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino

Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento

Hon. Daniel J. Buckley
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. Tia Graves Fisher
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. Joyce D. Hinrichs
Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Humboldt

Hon. Gary Nadler
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma

Hon. Robert H. Oliver
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Fresno

Hon. Thomas M. Maddock
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Contra Costa

Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Orange

Hon. Ronald L. Taylor (retired)
CJA Board Member and former Judge of the
Superior Court of California, County of
Riverside

Hon. Brian C. Walsh
Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
of California, County of Santa Clara

Mr. Stephen M. Kelly
Clerk/Administrator
Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

Mr. Michael D. Planet
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Ventura

Ms. Sharol H. Strickland (retired)
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Butte

Ms. Pat Sweeten
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

Mr. T. Michael Yuen
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco