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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Interim Administrative Director of the Courts Resigns Council to make a temporary appointment; national search under way

The Interim Administrative Director of the California Courts submitted his resignation to Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye on Wednesday, citing both personal reasons and the need for the judicial branch to keep its focus on restoration of the judicial branch budget.

“My decision is based on a number of factors,” said Mr. Overholt. “Among them is that the position of Administrative Director of the Courts has become a lightning rod for controversy, impacting the focus on budget discussions, Judicial Council governance of the judicial branch, and the AOC itself. By making this difficult choice, I hope that my decision will help refocus attention on the critical issues at hand—budget restoration, the future of the branch, and the stability of the AOC.”

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye called Mr. Overholt’s decision understandable but unfortunate. “Ron’s decision to leave the AOC is regrettable. His departure as Interim Administrative Director is a great loss not only for the AOC but also for the state judicial branch. But we respect his judgment that this is the best time for a transition. Ron’s service in court administration over the past 30 years, and especially over the last several months as Interim Director, has been exemplary and has served to enhance access to justice and public trust and confidence in our justice system. I join with judicial leaders around the state in thanking him and wishing him well in his future public service endeavors.”

“For the past three years, the economic environment we’ve been operating in has created unprecedented challenges for the state and prompted a reassessment of resources and priorities for all areas of government,” Mr. Overholt said. “For the AOC, this has included significant ongoing budget reductions and internal reorganization efforts. In the-anxiety-generating climate of this fiscal crisis, the AOC’s role in serving the council to advance access to justice on a *statewide* basis has unfairly become an easy target. Every organization has room for improvement—where merited, we have taken corrective action and are continuing to do so; where unmerited, we have worked hard to correct misinformation. AOC directors, managers, and staff have devoted incredible time and effort—on a daily basis to do more with less and to deliver critical services to the courts and the public.

“I will continue to work closely with the Chief Justice and the new interim director to ensure the best possible transition. I am proud to have served in a leadership role in the judicial branch—as an administrator in superior courts, as a member of the Judicial Council, and as a chief executive of this outstanding public service organization. I am proud of all that the Judicial Council, the courts, and the AOC have accomplished together to benefit our justice system and the people we serve.”

Mr. Overholt has won a number of state and national awards for his court administration service; in 2010, he received the National Center for State Court’s Distinguished Service Award. Before his appointment as Interim Administrative Director of the Courts in September 2011, Mr. Overholt served for 11 years as Chief Deputy Director of the AOC.

At the trial court level, he served as Court Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Alameda County for nine years, and for three years as the Assistant Court Executive Officer, and previously held senior management positions with the Superior Court of San Diego County. In 1997, he also served as a negotiator on behalf of the Judicial Council for the passage of landmark legislation providing for state funding of the trial courts.

A special closed Judicial Council meeting has been called today to select a new Interim Administrative Director, who will serve for the next few months as the [national search](#) for a permanent director continues.

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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 promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.