

March Judicial Election Results

Following is a tabulation by county of the results from the March 7 judicial elections around the state. A total of 63 positions were in contention. Twenty-one judges retained their seats, 24 new judges were elected (22 of those filling seats open due to retirement), and 18 races required runoff elections, to be held in November.

COUNTY	INCUMBENT	WINNER/RUNOFF CANDIDATES	COUNTY	INCUMBENT	WINNER/RUNOFF CANDIDATES
Alameda	Benjamin Travis (Ret.)	David Krashna (C) Mark Eliszewski (C)	Placer	Joseph O'Flaherty (retained seat)	Garrett Olney (I) R. Craig Settlemire
Butte	Ann Rutherford (Ret.) Jerome Warren (Ret.)	Melanie Howell James F. Reilley David Gunn (C) Steve Benson	Plumas	Garrett Olney	Paul Zellerbach Trena Burger Don Steed Steve Sander Harry Damkar
Contra Costa	Richard Patsey (Ret.)	William O'Malley	Riverside	William Sullivan	Arthur Harrison Mary Jo de la Pena
Del Norte	Philip Schafer (Ret.)	William Follett	Sacramento	Cecily Bond (Ret.)	Gus Skropos Frederick Maguire William O'Connell Charles Ervin Charles Rogers
Fresno	John Fitch (Ret.) Jane York (retained seat)	Deborah Kazanijian Daniel Casas	San Benito	Thomas Breen (Ret.)	
Kern	Charles Wilson (Ret.)	Craig Phillips	San Bernardino	Joseph Brisco (retained seat) Fred Heene (Ret.)	
Kings	Ronald Maciel (retained seat) Charles Johnson (retained seat)		San Diego	Craig Kamansky (retained seat) Ben Kayashima (Ret.) Michael Burley (Ret.) Federico Castro (Ret.)	
Lake	Richard Freeborn (Ret.) Arthur Mann (retained seat)	Steve Headstrom	Santa Barbara	Harvey Hiber (Ret.) William Pate (retained seat) Sandra Butler Smith (retained seat) Timothy Staffel (retained seat)	
Lassen	Ridgely Lazard (retained seat)		Santa Clara	Robert Ahern (Ret.) Read Ambler (Ret.)	Dolores Carr John Schroeder (C) Susan Bernardino William Priest Margaret Johnson (C) Paul Bernal Linda Condron
Los Angeles	John Martinez Richard Montes (Ret.) L. C. Nunley (Ret.)	John Martinez (I) Maria Vargas Rodriguez Katherine Mader David Mintz Vicki Roberts	Santa Cruz	Sandra Faithful (Ret.)	
Mariposa	Richard Rico (retained seat) Jesse Rodriguez (retained seat) Pamela Rogers (retained seat) William Seelicke (Ret.) Judith Stein (Ret.) Kenneth Vassie (Ret.) Richard McMechan (Ret.)	Christopher Estes Richard Stone Patricia Titus F. Dana Walton Wayne Parrish	Sierra	Thomas Hastings (Ret.) Leonard Sprinkles (Ret.) Kathleen Akao (retained seat) William Skillman (retained seat)	Bill Davis Cynda Unger Osby Davis
Mendocino	Ronald Combest (retained seat) Joseph Orr (Ret.)	Richard Henderson Hugh Flanagan	Siskiyou	Charles Henry (Ret.) Dwight Ely (Ret.)	
Merced	Angil Morris-Jones	Marc Kelly	Solano	Luis Villarreal (retained seat) Patricia Ann Gray Lloyd Von der Mehden (Ret.)	Elliot Daum Cheryl Martinson James Bertoli
Orange	Myron Brown (Ret.) Martin Hairabedian (Ret.) William Hopkins (Ret.)	John Conley Sheila Fell (C) E. Thomas Dunn Gary Paer (C) Stephanie George	Sonoma	John Garaventa (retained seat) Elmer Jennings Stephen Drew (retained seat)	Rich Scheuler
	James Jackman (Ret.) Gary Ryan (Ret.) Warren Siegel (retained seat) Claude Whitney (Ret.)	Dan McNerney Jan Nolan	Tehama		
			Tulare		

(Ret.) = Retired; (C) = Commissioner; (I) = Incumbent
Source: California Judges Association

Update on Trial Court Employees

TASK FORCE DRAFTING LEGISLATION

As a consequence of the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, the Legislature appointed the Task Force on Trial Court Employees and charged it with developing recommendations for a statewide personnel system for court employees. With that accomplished, the task force has now directed its attention to drafting legislation to implement its recommendations. (For more information about the task force's recommendations, visit www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/tcemployees.)

The proposed legislation, the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act (Sen. Bill 2140), is scheduled to be introduced in the Senate during this legislative session. Task force members and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff are working closely with

Senator John Burton's (D-San Francisco) office in developing the legislative language for the act. Implementation of the proposed personnel system is expected to begin by January 1, 2001, upon adoption of the act. (For an update on the status of SB 2140, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov.)

TRIAL COURT ASSISTANCE UNIT

In anticipation of the bill's enactment, the AOC Human Resources Division's Trial Court Assistance Unit (TCAU) is developing tools to assist the trial courts with implementation of the new personnel system. TCAU is in transition after being immersed in task force support for almost two years, and is now beginning to be defined in the newly proposed system.

UPDATING THE COURTS

TCAU staff, along with the Trial Court Programs Division and the Office of General Counsel, have been updating presiding judges, court executive officers, and human resource managers on the proposed personnel system and the impact of court employee status. In April TCAU sponsored two regional labor relations instructional workshops as part of its ongoing effort to prepare the courts for implementation of the new system. The workshops addressed standard labor relations processes and procedures under the Court Employee Labor Relations Rules.

In addition to these educational efforts, TCAU is making sure all trial court employees will be aware of the new proposed personnel system. With assistance from the AOC's Education Division, TCAU is producing an educational video and brochure, specifically for court employees, that answer commonly asked questions concerning the recommendations included in the proposed state-



wide personnel system. The video and brochure will provide a brief overview of the new proposed personnel system and will help to identify the impact of court employee status. These learning tools are scheduled to arrive at courts in early summer 2000.

TCAU is developing additional informational guidelines and reference materials concerning the new proposed personnel system, such as a Uniform Model Classification Plan Manual, periodic informational bulletins, and a resource list.

● For more information on TCAU activities, contact Lori Hara, Manager, Trial Court Assistance Unit, 415-865-4276. ■

Community Collaboration Aids Court Planning



Strategic plans submitted by 52 of the state's 58 trial courts were the centerpiece of the recent Judicial Council Planning Workshop, held March 16-17 in San Francisco. The countywide plans are meant to provide the courts with a local management tool and to facilitate a "bottom-up" process for identifying statewide trends and issues.

The 52 inaugural plans are the products of court and community collaboration, including the use of planning teams, com-

munity forums, focus groups, and surveys. At the workshop, the council commended the courts for the wealth of county demographics included in their plans, and reiterated that the involvement of the community in the process of court planning is a crucial component of increasing public trust and confidence in the courts.

ANALYSIS OF TRIAL COURT STRATEGIC ISSUES

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) conducted a com-

prehensive issue analysis of the trial court strategic plans submitted by the state's trial courts and presented it to the council at the planning workshop. The purpose of the analysis was to inform the council of the significant policy themes and directions identified by trial courts—matters that the council may wish to address through policy action or programmatic efforts.

The AOC's analysis is organized around the Judicial Council's six strategic goals. Following are a few highlights of the trial court strategic issues that were presented to the council.

Judicial Council Goal I: ACCESS, FAIRNESS, AND DIVERSITY

Many of the trial court strategic plans indicated that the courts are particularly sensitive about ensuring equal access for non-

English- or limited-English-speaking members of the public, unrepresented parties (pro pers), and the physically disabled community. Several smaller courts expressed their needs for a full-time, in-house court interpreter and for sign-language interpreters who would be available for the hearing-impaired.

Judicial Council Goal II: INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Nearly every court acknowledged a need for advocacy for court funds and resources as a means of ensuring judicial independence, and several courts are considering alternative sources of funds, including grants and partnerships with other agencies. Many courts also recognized the value of creating local "justice committees/councils" to build and strengthen relationships with the agencies and organizations with which the court does business.

Judicial Council Goal III: MODERNIZATION OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The most pressing concern is the need for new and improved court facilities. Nearly every plan noted the lack of waiting rooms, jury assembly rooms, attorney-client conference rooms, offices and workspaces, parking, and adequate court security.

Judicial Council Goal IV: QUALITY OF JUSTICE AND SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

Most courts emphasized the importance of community education and outreach, improved and respectful services to court users, and improved jury service. In addition, more than half of the courts identified a need for improved services to children and families, such as through "unified family courts."

Judicial Council Goal V: EDUCATION

The single most repeated priority of local courts in the area of education is providing a general training program for court personnel (meaning court staff rather than judicial officers). The plans suggested that only a few courts have comprehensive training programs in place.

Judicial Council Goal VI: TECHNOLOGY

Case management is the central technology issue defined by the trial courts. The second largest technology issue is public access to information. Many plans cited kiosks, interactive voice-response phone systems, interactive Web pages, and other technologies as means of providing faster, more convenient service to the public and of saving staff time.

● For a comprehensive analysis of the trial court plans, visit Serranus, the private Web site for California judges and judicial branch employees, at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov>. ■

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Nominations Sought for Council, Committees

The Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the Judicial Council and its advisory committees. Nominations for the council will be accepted through May 31; nominations for advisory committees will be accepted through June 30.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

The Executive and Planning Committee reviews nominations and forwards recommendations for appointments to the Chief Justice. Individuals are selected according to criteria such as:

- Prior service and active participation on a council advisory committee (for Judicial Council nominations only);
- Interest in and experience with court administration issues;
- Ability to maintain collegial working relationships;
- Demonstrated leadership; and
- Subject matter expertise.

Council and advisory committee members do not represent a specific constituency but rather strive to act in the best interest of the public and the entire court system. The selected nominees will represent diverse backgrounds, experiences, and geographic locations.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL VACANCIES

The California Constitution created the Judicial Council, chaired by the Chief Justice, to provide policy direction to the courts, the Governor, and the Legislature concerning court practice, procedure, and administration. The council is directly responsible for:

- Establishing direction and setting priorities for the continuous improvement of the court system;
- Promulgating rules of court administration, practice, and procedure;
- Sponsoring and taking positions on legislation that affects the California judicial system;
- Approving budgets for the California judicial branch;
- Approving reports to the Legislature; and

- Responding to appropriate mandates from the Legislature.

Specific organizations submit nominations for several vacancies on the Judicial Council, as specified in article VI of the California Constitution and in the California Rules of Court. Nominations are currently being sought to fill four voting positions on the council for superior court judges. The judges would serve for the three-year term that commences September 15, 2000.

For more information about the Judicial Council, visit the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCIES

To provide leadership to advance the consistent, impartial, independent, and accessible administration of justice, the Judicial Council must be aware of the issues and concerns confronting the judiciary, as well as appropriate solutions and responses. The council carries out this mission primarily through the work of its advisory committees and task forces.

Advisory Committees. Advisory committees report to the council on the condition of court business and on ways to improve judicial administration. They monitor areas of continuing significance to the justice system and make recommendations to the council.

The Chief Justice appoints advisory committee members according to positions or categories prescribed by the California Rules of Court and by statute. Positions vary according to the focus of the committee. For example, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee includes the categories of CASA director and children's rights attorney; the Appellate Advisory Committee includes the categories of appellate justice and trial court judge with appellate experience. The number of members in each committee at any one time varies according to its current and projected assignments.

To find out each committee's purpose, member categories, and cur-

rent membership, go to www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/advisorycommittees.htm. The term of service on a committee is generally three years; terms begin November 1.

New Advisory Committee. At its business meeting in October 1999, the Judicial Council approved in concept a new advisory committee on probate and mental health. The committee will advise the council on issues involving decedents' estates, trusts, guardianships, and conservatorships; recommend new Judicial Council probate forms and revise existing probate forms on an ongoing basis; develop statewide uniform rules; and review legislative proposals in the probate field.

In anticipation of the new committee, nominations are being sought in the following categories:

- Judicial officer with experience in probate;
- Lawyer whose primary practice area involves decedents' estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, or elder abuse law;
- Lawyer, examiner, or probate investigator who works for the court on probate or mental health issues;
- Person knowledgeable about mental health law, developmental disabilities, or private management of probate matters; and
- County counsel, public guardian, or other similar public officer familiar with guardianship and conservatorship issues.

To apply for a position on the Judicial Council or an advisory committee, please complete a nomination form. Nomination solicitation letters and application forms can be downloaded from the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/nomform/htm, or you can complete the forms online. A solicitation letter and nomination forms were sent to all judges and court administrators in April. For further information, contact the Secretariat, Administrative Office of the Courts, 415-865-7640.

Jury Spotlight

The second full week in May of each year shall be proclaimed and celebrated as annual Juror Appreciation Week throughout the state, in honor of the thousands of citizens who support the jury system, thereby making the cherished right of trial by jury a reality." (Assem. Conc. Res. No. 118.)

This year Juror Appreciation Week is May 8-14, and state courts are recognizing their valued jurors and the importance of jury duty in a variety of ways. Following is a sampling of the events going on around the state.

SUPERIOR COURT OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

The highlight will be a mock jury selection and deliberation based on the trial of "Shoeless" Joe Jackson. Jackson, a legendary baseball player for the Chicago White Sox, was indicted along with several of his teammates for

colluding with gamblers to "throw" the World Series in 1919. The event is dramatized in the film *Eight Men Out*.

The mock trial will take place on the campus of California State University, Stanislaus, in Turlock. Members of the audience will be randomly selected as jurors and will take part in deliberations. Judge Roger Beauchesne will act as judge, District Attorney Jim Brazelton will prosecute, and Public Defender Tim Bazar will play the defense attorney. Both attorneys will present oral arguments, and then the jury will deliberate—out loud and on the spot.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NAPA COUNTY

Among its several giveaways, Napa County will hold a competitive bake-off that will give jurors the opportunity to rule on desserts made by court staff. Last

year's big winners were "Oathmeal Cookies," "Cheesecake to Voir Dire For," and "No-Bail Brownies."

SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In Los Angeles, the courtyard outside the superior courthouse will become a cultural center, with booths offering information on the area's museums and music centers. In addition, a magician will perform tricks that help make the waiting time disappear, Jet Propulsion Lab robots will demonstrate their abilities, a 40-piece Marine Corps band will entertain, and the Los Angeles Arts Commission will sponsor a noontime concert.

SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The court will sponsor a noontime concert with local symphony musicians at a nearby theater. In addition, through a partnership formed with the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, the county Air Pollution Control District, and the

Comment Sought on New Jury Instructions

Coinciding with Juror Appreciation Week, the Judicial Council's Task Force on Jury Instructions released for comment a set of civil and criminal jury instructions that are designed to be more understandable to jurors than previous versions, while accurately stating the law. The task force is circulating the draft instructions, which have not been approved for official use, among California judges, bar associations, law school professors, and other interested parties.

The draft jury instructions are available on the California Courts Web site, www.courtinfo.ca.gov. Comments should be sent by August 1, 2000, to:

Administrative Office of the Courts
Attn. Camilla Kieliger
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3660

North County Transit District, the court will continue to provide jurors countywide with free public transportation to and from the court for their full terms of service. The court offers free transportation year round, not only during Juror Appreciation Week. ■

Grants Increase Access to Justice

At its February 22 meeting, the Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee approved the allocation of \$950,000 in partnership grants to the State Bar Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. The commission will distribute these funds to legal service providers for use in joint programs with courts to provide legal assistance to pro per litigants. The council also approved the allocation of \$250,000 (divided among the courts receiving grants) from the Judicial Administration Efficiency and Modernization Fund to assist the courts in implementing the partnership grants.

The partnership grants derive from the Budget Act of 1999, which allocated \$10 million to an Equal Access Fund "to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice."

Legal service projects receiving portions of the \$950,000 in partnership grants distributed through the Equal Access Fund:

Alameda County Bar Volunteer Legal Services and East Bay Community Law Center Landlord-Tenant and General Civil Law Projects

Alameda County Bar Volunteer Legal Services will provide drop-in advice, individual appointments, and pro per clinics in the areas of family law, debt collection, and other consumer-related matters at the Fremont Hall of Justice. The East Bay Community Law Center will provide clinics, advice, and landlord/tenant counseling.

Bay Area Legal Aid

Contra Costa County Domestic Violence Pro Per Clinic

In partnership with Battered Women's Alternatives, this new project will operate a pro per domestic violence clinic in the Bay Courthouse in Richmond. An attorney will assist pro per drop-ins with domestic violence-related restraining order applications and pleadings.

Central California Legal Services

Fresno/Tulare Counties Rural Access Project

This new project will increase access for victims of domestic violence in Fresno and Tulare Counties by using technology (video conferencing equipment) and adding staff to the family law facilitator's office and the project's rural sites.

Inland Counties Legal Services

Family Law Access Partnership Project

In partnership with the Public Service Law Corporation of Riverside County and the Inland

Empire Latino Lawyers Association, the Family Law Access Partnership Project will provide legal assistance to self-represented indigent family law litigants at the Family Law Assistance Center in Riverside and in a court facility near the Indio courthouse. This project will increase the access of Spanish-speaking litigants to the assistance center, provide monthly community presentations, and coordinate community legal education seminars.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Maynard Toll Center Expansion

Located in the Central District superior courthouse in Los Angeles, this project must turn away litigants because of its limited staffing and hours of operation. The grant will make it possible to expand services by increasing hours, adding attorney staff time, and hiring bilingual law students. The center assists litigants with issues such as child custody and visitation, child support, restraining orders, dissolution of marriage, establishment of paternity, and actions under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Unlawful Detainer Project

In collaboration with other community organizations, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles provides counsel to poor and low-income litigants in unlawful detainer cases. This grant will increase the availability of this project from two days to five days per week. The grant will also provide funding to add a second Trial Preparation Clinic at the courthouse, where an attorney will advise pro per litigants regarding evidence they have gathered, settlement options, and presentation of the case at trial.

Legal Aid Society of Orange County

Interactive Community Assistance Network

This new project will assist pro pers in obtaining information on domestic violence restraining orders, unlawful detainer answers, and complaints and answers in paternity actions. In addition, the project will help litigants format pleadings that can be filed with the court via the Internet and self-help kiosk-based systems.

Legal Aid Society of San Diego Center for Legal Assistance

This new project will supplement the part-time services of the family law facilitator in the South County and East County courts. Services will now be available five days per week in one court and four days per week in the other. The additional staff will be bilingual in Spanish.

Legal Services of Northern California Mother Lode Pro Per Project

In this new project, an attorney and a paralegal will visit nine pro per service centers that will be established in five counties: Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras. Services will include consultations on legal procedures, provision of self-help materials, and assistance with legal forms and documents in all areas of civil law, with emphasis on unmet needs in family law.

San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services

Monroe High School Law and Government Project

This grant will enable the Van Nuys Court Community Justice Center to operate at Monroe High School's law and government magnet. The Monroe center provides a unique opportunity for the courts, legal services, and the bar to partner with the schools to expand access to the justice system. The center will provide special programs to address such needs as responding to unlawful detainers, filing wage claims, effectively using small claims court, filing for bankruptcy, and solving consumer problems.

Sonoma County Legal Aid

Self-Help Access Center

The Self-Help Access Center at the Sonoma County main court complex will provide direct and immediate assistance to qualified low-income litigants as well as make referrals to more in-depth services already provided by affiliate organizations. The center will feature a comprehensive library of self-help materials, pro per instruction packets, and videotapes, and will offer workshops and clinics conducted by volunteer attorneys. Initial services will be in the areas of family law, elder law, housing, personal injury, and probate.

Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California

Family Law Pro Per Clinic Expansion (Sacramento County)

The Voluntary Legal Services Program (VLSP) and the family law facilitator's office jointly provide family law assistance at the Family Relations Court Self-Help Center. The grant will expand this project by helping to establish a satellite clinic at a community center in a low-income area of South Sacramento. VLSP staff and volunteers at the satellite clinic will provide legal advice and assistance with filings for family law issues.