



The Capitol Connection

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS • OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Legislative Calendar

January 4, 2006
Legislature Reconvenes

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS BILLS IMPACTING COURTS

The 2005 California Courts Legislative Summary, produced annually by the Office of Governmental Affairs, previously available only in print format, is now available on the California Courts Website.

The publication highlights the more than 100 bills that affect the courts or are of general interest to the court community that were signed into law during the first year of the 2005-2006 Legislative Session.

Each entry features a description of the bill's provisions, the effective date of the measure (if other than January 1, 2006), and indicates whether the measure is of primary interest to trial or appellate courts.

The Legislature recessed on September 8, 2005, after considering 2,892 bills introduced by the Senate and Assembly. Of those, only 729 were signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger prior to the October 9 bill signing deadline.

According to veteran legislative staffer Peter Detwiler, these numbers represent the lowest total legislative output since 1967.

The 2005 Legislative Summary is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/cr-legis.htm

For more information, contact the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121. ■

BBC LEADERS RECOGNIZED AT JUDICIAL BRANCH CONFERENCE

Six members of the Bench and bar were recognized at the September 9 meeting of the Bench-Bar Coalition (BBC) for their exceptional leadership and efforts in support of the judicial branch.

More than sixty bench and bar leaders attended the meeting, which was held during the 2005 Statewide Judicial Branch Conference in San Diego.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George delivered the opening remarks and joined Bench-Bar Coalition Co-Chair Anthony P. Capozzi, Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey, and Chief Deputy Director of



Pictured from left to right are BBC Co-Chair Anthony P. Capozzi, Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Outgoing CJA President Judge James Mize, and Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey.

the Courts Ronald G. Overholt in highlighting each recipient's achievements and presenting the engraved plaques.

JUDGE JAMES MIZE, PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Judge Mize is a former president of the California Judges Association (CJA) and has served as a member of the Judicial Council. He currently serves as a judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court.

During his tenure as CJA president, Judge Mize actively supported the BBC and has worked diligently to build

UPDATE ON JUDICIAL COUNCIL-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

New Judgeships/SJO Conversions

Senate Bill 56 (Dunn), which proposes the creation of new judgeships and the conversion of certain eligible subordinate judicial officers, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on July 5. Presiding judges and executive officers of trial courts, bar association leadership, and Bench-Bar Coalition member organizations again sent letters of support to legislators as they had done when the bill was in the Senate. The bill is being held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information about SB 56, contact Eraina Ortega at eraina.ortega@jud.ca.gov.

Court Facilities Bond

Senate Bill 395 (Escutia), which states the intent of the Legislature to enact the California Court Facilities Bond Act of 2006 to acquire, rehabilitate, construct, and finance court facilities, passed the Senate on June 1. The bill was amended to omit the amount of the proposed bond. If approved by the Legislature and the Governor, the bond would be placed on the ballot in an upcoming statewide election. The bill is being held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information on SB 395, contact Eraina Ortega at eraina.ortega@jud.ca.gov.

Uniform Civil Fee

In April 2004, the Court Fees Working Group (CFWG) made unanimous recommendations for a statewide uniform civil fee structure. The Uniform Civil Fee (UCF) will streamline and vastly simplify the civil fee structure, provide for uniformity across the state, and address the funding shortfall under the current fee structure.

The UCF was approved as part of the judicial branch budget and is included in budget trailer bill AB 145. The UCF will take effect on January 1, 2006, and the enhanced security fee that was set to expire on June 30, 2005, was extended until December 31, 2005.

For more information on the UCF, contact Eraina Ortega at eraina.ortega@jud.ca.gov.

Judges' Retirement

Senate Bill 528 (Ackerman and Dunn), as introduced on February 18, 2005, declares the Legislature's intent to evaluate the impact of trial court unification on the judges' retirement systems and the resulting increase in judges' ages at the start of their judicial service. This bill, co-sponsored with the California Judges Association, is a two-year bill, allowing the council to report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of JRS II based on the ten years of experience under the new system.

For more information on SB 528, contact June Clark at june.clark@jud.ca.gov. ■

BBC LEADERS

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collaborative relationships with the branch and the California Judges Association.

MR. JOHN VAN DE KAMP, PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Van de Kamp served for the past year as the 80th President of the State Bar of California.

Even with his pressing responsibilities to the State Bar, Mr. Van de Kamp was an ardent supporter of the Bench-Bar Coalition and of its collaborative efforts with the State Bar of California.



JUDGE BRAD HILL, SUPERIOR COURT OF FRESNO COUNTY

The BBC recognized Judge Hill for his leadership and contributions to the BBC. In addition to attending BBC Day in Sacramento events and



conference calls, Judge Hill has made numerous trips to Sacramento to testify before the legislature in support of judicial independence, adequate judicial branch funding, and access to justice for users of court programs and services.

A former Judicial Council member, Judge Hill has worked to build support and enhance cooperative relationships among members of the Fresno bench, bar and legislative community. These efforts include hosting a legislative hearing that brought together bench, bar and local government leaders to provide direct testimony on judicial branch priorities.

MS. JULIA WILSON, DIRECTOR, LEGAL AID ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. Wilson has proven to be a committed and energetic resource to the judicial branch in the area of legal services. In addition to her own participation in



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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The following is an update of the first year of the 2005-2006 legislative session on selected bills of interest to the courts.

BUDGET

SB 77 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) as proposed June 13, 2005. Budget Act of 2005

Enacts the state budget of 2005.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 38.

JC Position: None.

SB 78 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) as amended July 7, 2005. Budget Act of 2004: Contingencies and Emergencies

Deficiency bill that includes \$14.6 million for the trial courts to fund security and increased county charges.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 246.

JC Position: None.

SB 80 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) as amended July 7, 2005. State Government

Budget bill that amends the conference committee report and SB 77 to restore \$7.7 million in funding for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 39.

JC Position: None.

AB 139 (Committee on Budget) as amended July 6, 2005. State Government

Budget trailer bill that includes the undesignated fee agreement reached by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Incrementally reduces and eventually eliminates over a 4-year period the counties' obligation to pay a \$31 million annual obligation pursuant to Gov. Code Section 68085.5. Increases the maximum civil assessment from \$250 to \$300. Freezes local civil assessment revenues at the 2003-04 level. Establishes a review process to make necessary adjustments to ensure fairness of payments by agreement between CSAC and the AOC. Requires courts and counties to pro-rate collection costs pursuant to State Controller's Office guidelines

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 74.

JC Position: None.

AB 145 (Committee on Budget) as amended July 6, 2005. Uniform Civil Fees

Budget trailer bill that enacts the Uniform Civil Fee proposal. Establishes a statewide, uniform first paper and first response paper fees at three graduated levels: the filing fee

for limited civil cases where the demand is less than or equal to \$10,000 is \$180, the filing fee for limited civil cases where the demand is greater than \$10,000, but less than \$25,000 is \$300 and that the filing fee for unlimited civil cases is \$320. Establishes a moratorium on fee changes through December 31, 2007, except for possible changes by the Legislature to implement recommendations of the Task Force on County Law Libraries or revise the graduated filing fee for probate petitions. Establishes a set-aside for increases in dispute resolution, law library, children's waiting rooms, and judges' retirement fees during the proposed moratorium, ending December 31, 2007. Authorizes the Judicial Council to establish bank accounts for the superior courts and requires the courts to deposit moneys from trial court operations and any other moneys under the control of the courts, into those accounts. Provides that money, excluding restitution to victims, that has been deposited with a superior court, or that a superior court is holding in trust for the lawful owner, in a court bank account or in a court trust account in a county treasury, that remains unclaimed for three years, is the property of the superior court if not claimed after specified notice and if no verified complaint is filed and served.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 75.

JC Position: None.

CIVIL PROCEDURE

AB 496 (Aghazarian), as amended August 29, 2005. Service of process: retention of original summons in court file.

Existing law provides that a plaintiff may have the clerk issue one or more summons for any defendant. Among other things, this bill would require the clerk to maintain the original summons in the court file.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 300

JC position: Support

AB 1459 (Canciamilla), as amended August 30, 2005. Small claims court jurisdiction. Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 618. **JC position:** Support.

SB 422 (Simitian), as amended August 25, 2005. Small claims court jurisdiction. Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 600. **JC position:** Support.

Increases the small claims jurisdiction over actions brought by a natural person from \$5,000 to \$7,500. Provides that, effective July 1, 2006, prior to serving as a temporary judge in small claims court (and at least every three years), each temporary judge must take a course of

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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study pursuant to rules adopted by the Judicial Council. Provides that the course include specified areas of state and federal law relevant to small claims cases. Provides that the individual personal advisory services provided to small claims litigants must cover specified topics relating to small claims court rules, filings and procedures. Contains legislative findings and declarations addressing: 1) the variation in quality of and access to justice in small claims court across jurisdictions; 2) the need for better and timely training of temporary judges; 3) the need for improvements in the availability, knowledge and experience of advisors; and 4) the need for qualified interpreters. Specifies the intent of the Legislature that the jurisdictional limits should not be raised again, particularly with respect to individuals as defendants, until certain small claims court services are funded at sufficient levels.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 600.

JC position: Support.

COURT FACILITIES

AB 1435 (Evans), as amended September 2, 2005. Court Facilities

Makes technical changes to the Trial Court Facilities Act. Removes obsolete language regarding court reporters in Mendocino County. Clarifies allowable expenditures from the local courthouse construction fund and expands the reporting requirement of the Judicial Council regarding those expenditures. Provides counties with first right of refusal at fair market value for court facilities that transfer to the state where the state later decides to sell the facility.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 410.

JC position: Support.

COURT OPERATIONS

AB 176 (Bermúdez), as amended April 21, 2005. Trial courts: limited-term employees.

Existing law prohibits the employment of any temporary employee in the trial court for a period exceeding 180 calendar days, except for court reporters under certain conditions. This bill would prohibit the employment of any limited-term law clerk employed in the Los Angeles trial court for a period exceeding 180 calendar days. The bill would further provide that any limited-term law clerk employed by Los Angeles court for more than 180 calendar days is a regular employee.

Sponsor: Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees

Status: Vetoed.

JC Position: Oppose.

AB 759 (Lieber), as amended April 4, 2005. Misdemeanors: penalty assessments.

Authorizes a county board of supervisors in a county that has established a local Crime Stoppers Program to levy a new penalty assessment of up to \$2, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for misdemeanor criminal offenses.

Notes: The penalty assessment authorized by the bill presents problems for court case management systems since it only applies to misdemeanor offenses.

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee. 2-year bill.

JC Position: Oppose unless amended or funded.

AB 1742 (Assembly Judiciary Committee), as amended September 2, 2005. Civil Omnibus and Court Operations

Among other things, deletes the repeal date of January 1, 2006, in Code of Civil Procedure section 128.7, which authorizes sanctions for the filing of frivolous lawsuits, thereby continuing indefinitely the courts' sanctioning authority in this area. Amends Code of Civil Procedure section 998 to require that acceptances of offers be in writing in order to reduce uncertainty and reduce the number of appeals related to ambiguous acceptances of settlement offers. Contains a variety of clean-up provisions to the Small Claims Act, including simplifying the process for scheduling hearings and filing proofs of service of claims and orders, clarifying the process governing motions to correct or vacate judgments, and streamlining the process for handling transfers of judgments after appeal. Allows courts to make temporary custody and visitation orders before a venue change (currently they can only make support orders) and adds actions under the Uniform Parentage Act to the existing authority to make these temporary orders in separation and dissolution cases. Grants court personnel access to electronic data on insurance coverage through state Department of Motor Vehicles records in the same manner that the data is provided to law enforcement officers.

Status: Chaptered.

JC Position: Sponsor.

SB 56 (Dunn), as amended July 13, 2005. New judge-ships.

Authorizes an undetermined number of additional judges for appointment to the various counties, as determined by the Judicial Council. Additionally, authorizes conversion

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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of an undetermined number of subordinate judicial officers.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

JC position: Sponsor.

SB 57 (Alarcón), as amended August 25, 2005. Fines and forfeitures.

Authorizes, until January 1, 2005, a county board of supervisors to levy a new \$2 penalty assessment for every \$10, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for specified criminal offenses. Revenue generated would be deposited into the county's Maddy Emergency Medical Fund.

Notes: The bill was amended to remove authorization for a second \$2 assessment that would have applied to specific categories of offenses.

Status: Vetoed.

JC position: Oppose.

SB 395 (Escutia), as amended May 26, 2005. Court facilities bond.

Enacts the California Court Facilities Bond Act of 2006 to acquire, rehabilitate, construct, and finance court facilities.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

JC position: Sponsor.

CRIMINAL

AB 106 (Cohn), as amended March 8, 2005. Spousal battery: fines: amnesty.

Requires the courts of each county to establish a one-time amnesty program, based upon Judicial Council guidelines, for fines, bail, and other monetary obligations that are imposed for certain domestic violence offenses that have been delinquent for not less than six months as of January 1, 2006. Provides that the amount scheduled by the court shall be 70 percent of the total fines, fees, penalties, or assessments imposed.

Notes: The Judicial Council is opposed to this bill because it is inconsistent with the recommendations of the SB 940 Court County Working Group on Enhanced Collections.

Status: Assembly Appropriations; held in committee. 2-year bill.

JC position: Oppose.

AB 1542 (Parra), as amended May 4, 2005. Crimes by veterans: sentencing.

Expands existing law governing the court's sentencing authority applicable to combat veterans of Vietnam who have substance abuse or psychological problems related to that service and are convicted of a felony to apply to a combat

veteran of any war who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, and suffers from post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or psychological or emotional problems as a result of that service.

Status: Vetoed.

JC position: No position.

AB 1551 (Runner), as amended May 18, 2005. Sexual predators.

Strengthens the sentencing scheme for sexual assault on children.

Notes: The Judicial Council opposed AB 1551 unless amended to strike the provision eliminating the court's authority under Penal Code section 1385 to dismiss an action in the furtherance of justice. The council has long advocated that, while the discretion is not absolute, dismissal of an action in the furtherance of justice is within the court's "exclusive discretion." The May 18 version of the bill deleted this provision, and the council has withdrawn its opposition and is now neutral on the bill.

Sponsor: California District Attorneys Association

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee; hearing cancelled at the request of author.

JC position: Neutral.

SB 330 (Cedillo), as amended March 29, 2005. Criminal proceedings: mental competency.

Requires a criminal action to be dismissed if a defendant in a misdemeanor or infraction case is not brought to trial within 30 days after the date of the reinstatement of criminal proceedings pursuant to the provisions of law governing the mental competency of defendants.

Sponsor: Los Angeles City Attorney

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 36.

JC position: Support.

SB 797 (Romero), as amended June 30, 2005. Crimes: marijuana: possession: penalty

Changes the offense for the first offense of possession of not more than 28.5 grams of marijuana from an infraction to an alternate misdemeanor/infraction, and increases the punishment from a fine not to exceed \$100 to a fine not to exceed \$250. Provides that the second offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.

Status: Assembly inactive file.

JC position: No position.

SB 864 (Poochigian), as amended May 25, 2005. Sexually violent predators: term of commitment

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Authorizes commitment as a sexually violent predator to the state Department of Mental Health for a four-year term rather than for a two-year term for treatment of the person's diagnosed mental disorder if the person is adjudicated to be likely to engage in sexually violent criminal behavior if discharged. Requires that courts give a preference in scheduling commitment trials over all other civil matters.

Sponsor: California District Attorneys Association.

Notes: To comment, contact June Clark at

june.clark@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee; hearing postponed by committee.

JC position: No position.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SB 720 (Kuehl) Protective orders

Requires the court to transmit data filed on the required Judicial Council forms related to any domestic violence protective order issued, modified, extended, or terminated pursuant to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act into CLETS, or to submit it to the agency that performs CLETS entry within one business day. Authorizes a city attorney or district attorney to prosecute someone who violates a DVPA order for contempt of court.

Sponsor: Attorney General.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 631.

FAMILY

AB 118 (Cohn), as amended May 25, 2005. Protective orders: minor children.

Requires that child custody orders must reference and acknowledge the precedence of enforcement of a criminal protective order issued in cases where a criminal protective order protects the custodial parent and provides that contact between a restrained parent and a protected parent shall be for safe exchange only.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 465.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS

AB 1595 (Evans), as amended May 16, 2005. Public safety officials: confidentiality

Prohibits a person, business, or association from selling or trading for value on the Internet the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official if that official has made a written demand of that person, business, or association to not disclose his or her home address or telephone number. Provides for exceptions for health care providers and financial institutions covered under existing

privacy laws.

Notes: Product of 2004 Final Report of the Public Safety Officials' Home Protection Act Advisory Task Force. Council to seek amendment allowing public safety official to submit opt-out request to Secretary of State for inclusion in "opt-out registry."

Sponsor: Author.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 343

JC position: Support.

SB 506 (Poochigian), as amended May 31, 2005. Voter records: confidentiality

Allows a county elections official to, upon application of a public safety officer, make confidential the residence information of the officer contained in the affidavit of registration, subject to certain requirements. Provides that public safety officer includes judges and court commissioners for the purposes of the bill.

Notes: Product of 2004 Final Report of the Public Safety Officials' Home Protection Act Advisory Task Force.

Sponsor: Author

Status: Re-referred to Assembly Rules Committee.

JC position: Support

SCA 16 (Runner), as introduced July 14, 2005. Judicial districts: superior court judges

Provides that the superior court of any county with a population of more than 5,000,000 shall be divided into judicial districts established by three special masters appointed by the Supreme Court.

Sponsor: Author.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Oppose.

JURY ISSUES

SB 874 (Romero), as amended June 28, 2005

Prohibits a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a contractor who employs more than 100 full time employees who does not have and adhere to a written policy providing his or her employees with not less than five days of regular pay for actual jury service.

JC position: Support.

Status: Vetoed.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY

SB 218 (Scott), as amended April 21, 2005. Termination of parental rights: prospective adoptive parents.

Authorizes the court to designate specified caretakers as

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BBC LEADERS

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BBC Day in Sacramento activities and membership calls, Ms. Wilson coordinated the participation of her legal services colleagues to insure statewide representation during legislative visits.

Over the course of the year, Ms. Wilson has coordinated testimony from members of the public and legal services representatives from across the state at legislative and Judicial Council hearings on access to justice. The BBC applauds her efforts to insure that the voices of “real people” are heard.

MR. WILFRED “WILL” SCHNEIDER, JR., PRESIDENT, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



In addition to participating in BBC Days in Sacramento and conference calls, Mr. Schneider led an exemplary advocacy program to build support among his local legislators for the judicial branch’s priority legislation and stable funding for courts in the Inland Empire.

He has consistently demonstrated the value of developing resources, tools, and strategic partnerships with legislative, bench and bar leaders to achieve successful results on behalf of the judicial branch. Mr.

successful results on behalf of the judicial branch. Mr.



Pictured are Administrative Director William C. Vickrey, BBC Co-Chair Anthony Capozzi, State Bar Legal Services Director Mary Viviano, Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Sr. Governmental Affairs Analyst Dia Poole and AOC Chief Deputy Director Ronald G. Overholt.

Schneider’s wife, Susan, and daughter, Rachel, were in attendance for the presentation.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Special recognition was also accorded to Ms. Mary Viviano, Legal Services Director, Access and Fairness Commission of the State Bar of California, and to Ms. Dia Poole, Administrative Office of the Courts’ liaison to the BBC. Ms. Viviano and Ms. Poole were presented gifts from BBC leadership in appreciation for their ongoing planning and support roles on the Coalition’s behalf.

Following the presentations, Mr. Vickrey and Mr. Overholt briefed BBC members on the status of Judicial Council-sponsored legislation at the close of the first year of the 2005-06 Legislative Session. A full report on the status of bills of interest to the judicial branch was included in briefing materials distributed at the conference. At that time, several bills were awaiting action by the Governor on or before the October 9 bill signing deadline. ■

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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prospective adoptive parents in cases where a dependent child’s parents have had their rights terminated, and the child has resided with the caretaker for at least six months, and the caretaker has expressed an interest in adopting the child. Where the court makes this designation, a child could not be removed from the home of that caretaker until the caretaker received notice and an opportunity to request a hearing to determine that such removal was in the child’s best interests.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 626.

PROBATE

SB 390 (Bowen), as amended August 31, 2005. Probate assignments: cash advances.

Existing law provides for the regulation of the distribution

of an estate. This bill would regulate the assignment of a beneficiary’s entire or partial interest in an estate in consideration for a cash advance or any other consideration, as specified. Among other things, the bill would require the agreement to be filed with the court, would require specified disclosures with regard to costs and fees, and would prohibit an assignment agreement form containing certain provisions, including, but not limited to, a binding arbitration clause. The bill would further authorize the court to modify or refuse to order that assignment under specified circumstances, and would allow for specified damages upon a willful violation of the above-described provisions.

Sponsor: Author.

Status: Stats. 2005, ch. 438.

JC position: No position. ■



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BBC ANNOUNCES REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE FORUMS

With the 2006 legislative year rapidly approaching, the Bench-Bar Coalition announced a series of regional meetings in November and December to outline strategies for outreach and advocacy.

Although the statewide coalition generally focuses on legislative and policy issues of statewide importance, the regional format will facilitate dialogue on issues of importance to the local bench and bar groups. The regional meeting agenda will also include discussions on outreach activities planned or underway with legislators in their district offices and action plan development for legislative priorities in 2006, including Day in Sacramento legislative visits.

Regional Planning Meetings and Forums

Regional planning meetings were held in November in San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles. As a follow up to the planning sessions, the Bench-Bar Coalition has invited legislators and their district office directors to attend one of three regional legislative forum to network, build relationships and discuss judicial branch priorities that are expected to come before the Legislature in early 2006. Regional forums are planned for the following dates and locations:

- Monday, December 5, 2005, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Oakland
- Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Los Angeles
- Thursday, December 15, 2005, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., San Diego

To register, please contact Christina Fonseca in the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121. Additional legislative forums may be added as outcomes of the regional planning meetings.

2006 Conference Call Schedule Announced

Dates have also been announced for the 2006 BBC quarterly membership conference calls. All conference calls are held on Mondays from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Please note the following dates on your 2006 calendars:

- Monday, January 23, 2006
- Monday, April 17, 2006
- Monday, July 24, 2006
- Monday, October 23, 2006

Membership in the BBC is open to judicial officers and leadership of bar and legal services organizations. For more information on Bench-Bar Coalition, contact Dia Poole in the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121. ■

News from the AOC

In addition to *The Capitol Connection*, the Administrative Office of the Courts publishes several publications reporting on various aspects of court business. Visit these online on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov

In an ongoing effort to provide information to the juvenile and family court community, The Center for Families, Children & the Courts publishes an annual academic journal that covers contemporary and important issues regarding children, families, and the interplay between these parties and the courts. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/publications/

