



Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts
Office of Communications, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
California Courts Infoline 800-900-5980, www.courts.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: [Leanne Kozak](mailto:Leanne.Kozak@courts.ca.gov), 916-263-2838

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2012

Judicial Council Advisory Committees Trimmed

Further consolidation of committees and working groups expected

SAN FRANCISCO—Justice Douglas P. Miller, chair of the Judicial Council’s Executive and Planning Committee, announced today that the Judicial Council has trimmed the size of its advisory committees by about 10 percent to reduce costs, and he expects more consolidation to occur in the next few months.

The announcement coincides with Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye’s appointments of new committee members, whose terms begin November 1. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for vacancies on 15 of 17 Judicial Council advisory committees. The nominations of justices, judges, and attorneys are vetted by advisory committee chairs and by the Executive and Planning Committee before being sent to the Chief Justice, who filled 75 of the vacancies. Membership rolls shrank from 377 to 350.

“Our recommendation to reduce the size of advisory committees was difficult because they perform a crucial function for the judicial branch,” said Justice Miller. “They review policies or proposed changes to rules of court and their recommendations to the Judicial Council carry great weight. We prefer that members have a broad perspective about branch issues, as well as reflect the diversity of the state. At the same time, we are in a fiscal crisis and need to scale back on the size of all the committees. The committees are staffed by employees of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the agency has faced considerable downsizing this past year. We have to weigh all these considerations, as well as to make sure that we keep getting fresh perspectives on the committees.”

In addition to the advisory committees, there are task forces and working groups with approximately 300 members. “We’re in the process of looking at all committees, task forces, and working groups,” said Justice Miller. “Are they all necessary? Are they still active? Can any of them be consolidated? We also want to make sure that they answer to the Judicial Council because in some cases the past practice is for the council to delegate its authority over the working groups to the Administrative Director. As part of our ongoing examination of our

governance, we want to make sure all groups under our auspices report directly to the Judicial Council.”

For a list of all the council’s committees and task forces, go to this [web page](#).

#

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.