



# NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 22

Release Date: May 20, 2010

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
CALIFORNIA  
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## Chief Justice George Appoints New Coalition of Tribal and State Courts

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of the California Tribal Court/State Court Coalition, the first organization of its kind in the state.

The purpose of the coalition is to develop measures to improve the working relationship between California's tribal and state courts and to focus on areas of mutual concern. The coalition will study and provide recommendations on such areas as enforcement and recognition of protective and other kinds of orders and judgments, jurisdictional issues, and how to ensure access to justice in Indian country in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen-dating violence.

"Tribal and state courts share the same essential commitment to serve the public," stated Chief Justice Ronald M. George. "By developing procedures that will foster cooperation on jurisdictional issues, tribal and state courts can work together to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice for those coming to our courts."

The coalition will be cochaired by Judge Richard C. Blake, Chief Judge of the Hoopa Tribal Court and Presiding Judge of the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Court, and Justice Richard D. Huffman, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One.

Members of the coalition include tribal court judges; state court judges; chairs of the Judicial Council's advisory committees on access and fairness, criminal law, civil and small claims, family and juvenile, and traffic; and the director of Native American Affairs for the State Attorney General's Office.

The formation of the coalition results from a historic meeting held in

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December 2009 where issues were discussed concerning tribal and state courts. Funding for the coalition will be provided by a federal grant.

*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.*

## **California Tribal Court/State Court Coalition**

**May 18, 2010**

### **Tribal Court Members**

- Hon. Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribal Court
- Hon. Richard C. Blake, Chief Judge of the Hoopa Tribal Court and Presiding Judge of the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Court
- Hon. Anthony J. Brandenburg, Chief Judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California
- Hon. Michael Golden, Chief Judge of the Morongo Tribal Court and Chief Judge of the Redding Rancheria Tribal Court
- Hon. Charles N. Henry, Chief Judge of the Karuk Tribal Court
- Hon. William Kockenmeister, Chief Judge of the Bishop Paiute Indian Tribal Court
- Hon. Lester J. Marston, Chief Judge of the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Court

### **State Court Members**

- Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento and Cochair of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
- Hon. Richard D. Huffman, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One
- Hon. Susan D. Huguenor, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego and Cochair of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
- Mr. Olin Jones, Director of the Office of Native American Affairs, California Attorney General's Office
- Hon. James R. Lambden, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two, and Chair of Access and Fairness
- Hon. Dennis M. Perluss, Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Seven, and Chair of the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
- Hon. Steven Z. Perren, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Six, and Chair of the Criminal Law Advisory Committee
- Hon. Deborah A. Ryan, Commissioner of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, and Chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee
- Hon. Dean Stout, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo
- Hon. Juan Ulloa, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Imperial
- Hon. Christopher G. Wilson, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt