



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COURT FACILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 21, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Teleconference

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Vice-Chair
Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego
Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi
Hon. Keith D. Davis (Ret.)
Hon. Robert D. Foiles
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley
Hon. William F. Highberger
Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.)
Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)
Ms. Linda Romero Soles
Mr. Larry Spikes
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Mr. Stephan Castellanos, FAIA
Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta

Others Present: The following Judicial Council staff/others were present:

Ms. Cindy Van Schooten, Assistant Court Executive Officer and CJER Liaison,
Superior Court of Shasta County

Mr. Jack Collins, Manager, Facilities Services
Mr. Mike Courtney, Director, Facilities Services
Mr. Jeremy Ehrlich, Attorney II, Legal Services
Ms. Kristin Kerr, Attorney II, Legal Services
Ms. Rose Livingston, Senior Analyst, Executive Office
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Facilities Services
Ms. Pella McCormick, Deputy Director, Facilities Services
Mr. Paul Menard, Manager, Facilities Services
Ms. Deepika Padam, Supervisor, Facilities Services
Mr. Jim Peterson, Principal Manager, Facilities Services
Ms. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Facilities Services
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Principal Manager, Facilities Services
Ms. Lynette Stephens, Senior Budget Analyst, Budget Services
Ms. Peggy Symons, Manager, Facilities Services
Mr. John Wordlaw, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Office

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Opening Remarks

The chair called the open meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., roll was taken, and opening remarks were made.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory committee voted unanimously (with the abstention of all members absent from the meeting, and the exceptions of judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, as Ex-Officio, non-voting members, and of the members who were absent as shown above) to approve the minutes of its meeting held on July 10, 2020.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Update to the California Trial Court Facilities Standards

Summary: The Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) reviewed the final draft update to the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards*. Various code provisions and best management practices have changed over time.

Judge Patricia M. Lucas, CFAC Vice-Chair, and Ms. Pella McCormick presented this item consistent with the materials that were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting and available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20200921-materials.pdf.

Judge Lucas emphasized that with the incorporation of the *Catalog of Courtroom Layouts for California Trial Courts* into the facilities standards, the presumptive requirement—that *only* approved templates for multipurpose courtrooms be used in all new construction—was developed to balance the efficiency and cost savings of having standardized approaches while allowing trial courts the flexibility to address their particular situations if a change or variation from the templates is needed. She called on Judge Steven E. Jahr (Ret.) to describe a recent example. Judge Jahr stated that observations made at a fit-and-finish mockup for the New Redding Courthouse project for the Superior Court of Shasta County led to a concern that, given Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for ramping and how they interface with the layout of the working area of the courtroom, the separation was insufficient between the height of the judge’s bench (at 16 inches) and the clerk’s workstation. He indicated that to alert future design teams and courts of this issue on future projects, a proposed remedy was to adjust the pitch of the ramping, in compliance with ADA, to influence that height difference to make it greater. To memorialize this proposal, Ms. McCormick made the following comment:

- To the final draft of the facilities standards, a note would be added for the courtroom templates under Chapter 22 – Catalog of Courtroom Layouts for California Trial Courts as follows: *A court may adjust the combined ramp pitches from floor level to the bench to retain the bench height of 16” while lowering the clerk floor height, so long as the maximum pitch utilized does not exceed a 1:12 ratio.*

Action: The advisory committee—with the exceptions of judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, as Ex-Officio, non-voting members, and the members who were absent as shown above—voted unanimously to approve the following motions:

1. Approve the final draft update to the standards, including the suggested note for the courtroom templates (as described above), for Judicial Council review and adoption at its November 2020 meeting.
2. Delegate to the CFAC chair and vice-chair the review of the report to the Judicial Council.
3. That with his retirement as Director of Facilities Services pending at the end of October 2020, Mr. Mike Courtney be commended for his incredible and valued service to the judicial branch, having provided decades-worth-of-value in his relatively short tenure, and that the CFAC sends him off with an attaboy of thanks and appreciation.

Following the CFAC’s action, the chair and all advisory committee members acknowledged Mr. Mike Courtney’s contributions to the judicial branch and the CFAC, given his retirement as Director of Facilities Services was pending at the end of October 2020. He was thanked greatly for his service to the courts, Judicial Council, and the CFAC and congratulated on his retirement.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on June 16, 2021.