



Meeting Materials for the Court Facilities Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Courthouse Names

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 12, 2023



Judicial Council of California
Court Facilities Advisory Committee



Court Facilities Advisory Committee's
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names

Open Meeting

June 12, 2023

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Judicial Council of California
Court Facilities Advisory Committee

www.courts.ca.gov/cfac.htm
cfac@jud.ca.gov

Request for ADA accommodations should be made at least three business days before the meeting and directed to:
JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov

**COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTHOUSE NAMES**

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING

Open to the Public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c)(1) and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: June 12, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Public Videocast: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/2773>

Meeting materials will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make a recording of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be e-mailed to cfac@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))

This meeting will be conducted by videoconference with a livestream available for the public. As such, the public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be e-mailed to cfac@jud.ca.gov or mailed or delivered to 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, attention: Chris Magnusson. Only written comments received by 12:00 PM on June 9, 2023, will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-2)

Item 1

Revised Courthouse Naming Policy (Action Required)

Discussion of an update to the *Courthouse Naming Policy*. The Judicial Council, with recommendation from its Court Facilities Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, names courthouses based on standards to provide consistency in identifying courthouses in California. Changes over time necessitate an update to the policy since it was adopted by the Judicial Council in 2014.

Presenter: Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services

Item 2

Request to Name the Fourth Appellate District Courthouse in Santa Ana (Action Required)

Review the request from the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Three, to name the existing Fourth Appellate District Courthouse in the City of Santa Ana after former associate justice of the Supreme Court of California, Cruz Reynoso.

Presenter: Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn

DRAFT Revised Courthouse Naming Policy

CFAC Subcommittee on Courthouse Names Meeting
June 12, 2023



Current Naming Policy

- Provides standards for consistency in identifying courthouses in California.
- Standards are applicable to:
 - Newly constructed courthouses.
 - Renovated courthouses financed by Judicial Council.
 - Existing courthouses—where the Council is owner or majority tenant.
- Changes over time necessitate an update since last revised in April 2014.
- Judicial Council approval required for its revision.

Basis for Revised Naming Policy

- **Primary update is to naming a courthouse after *a person* to reflect past practices:**
 - Of approximately 440 properties in real estate portfolio, 27 are court facilities named after a person:
 - Half (13 of 27) were living at the time of naming approval.
 - Only 5 (Sisk, Foltz, Joseph, Tamura, and Gibson) were deceased more than 10 years.
 - Judicial Council has approved six, including:
 - 2 courthouses were named after a living person.
 - 1 courthouse was named after a person deceased less than 10 years.
 - Slide 4 reflects these details of the portfolio's history.

Basis for Revised Naming Policy, *continued*

Line #	County	Building Name	Approval Authority	Date Approved	Year of Death	Deceased at Time of Approval? (Y/N)	City	Year Built
1.	Alameda	Rene C. Davidson Courthouse	County	circa 1995	1994	Y	Oakland	1935
2.	Alameda	Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse	County	5/21/82	1981	Y	Oakland	1978
3.	Alameda	George E. McDonald Hall of Justice	County	Unk.	2016	N	Alameda	1985
4.	Contra Costa	Richard E. Arnason Justice Center	Judicial Council	10/24/2008	2015	N	Pittsburg	2010
5.	Contra Costa	A. F. Bray Courthouse	County	Unk.	1987	Unk.	Martinez	1986
6.	Contra Costa	George D. Carroll Courthouse	County	2009	2016	N	Richmond	1953
7.	Contra Costa	Spinetta Family Law Center	County	circa 2003	-	N	Martinez	2003
8.	Contra Costa	Wakefield Taylor Courthouse	County	Unk.	2005	N	Martinez	1901
9.	Fresno	B.F. Sisk Courthouse	Judicial Council	4/25/2014	1995	Y > 10 yrs.	Fresno	1967
10.	Humboldt	John Hayes Memorial Veterans Hall	County	Unk.	2004	N	Garberville	1950
11.	Los Angeles	Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse	County	circa 2003	-	N	Lancaster	2003
12.	Los Angeles	Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse	Judicial Council	2/25/2011	2018	N	Long Beach	2013
13.	Los Angeles	Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse	County	circa 1992	2016	N	Monterey Park	1992
14.	Los Angeles	Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center	County	2002	1934	Y > 10 yrs.	Los Angeles	1972
15.	Los Angeles	Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center	County	Unk.	1975	Unk.	Lancaster	1960
16.	Los Angeles	Stanley Mosk Courthouse	County	2002	2001	Y	Los Angeles	1957
17.	Merced	Robert M. Falasco Justice Center (Los Banos Division)	Judicial Council	8/21/2015	2012	Y	Los Banos	2016
18.	Merced	Charles James Ogletree, Jr. Courthouse	Legislation	9/18/2022	-	N	Merced	2006
19.	Modoc	Robert A. Barclay Justice Center	County	1993	2010	N	Alturas	1976
20.	Nevada	Joseph Government Center (Truckee Courthouse)	County	circa 1970	1897	Y > 10 yrs.	Truckee	1970
21.	Orange	Betty Lou Lamoreaux Justice Center	County	5/14/1992	2018	N	Orange	1992
22.	Orange	Stephen K. Tamura Courthouse (West Justice Center)	Judicial Council	4/16/2020	1982	Y > 10 yrs.	Westminster	1967
23.	Placer	Howard G. Gibson Courthouse	Judicial Council	10/27/2015	1986	Y > 10 yrs.	Roseville	2008
24.	Riverside	Larson Justice Center	County	1997	2020	N	Indio	1997
25.	Sacramento	Carol Miller Justice Center	County	circa 1991	1990	Y	Sacramento	1991
26.	Sacramento	William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse	County	circa 1999	1998	Y	Sacramento	1999
27.	Sacramento	Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse	County	2002	1997	Y	Sacramento	1965

Basis for Revised Naming Policy, *continued*

- **Maintains same 10-year deceased criterion as a *rebuttable presumption* but adds exception for:**
 - Persons deceased less than 10 years; and
 - Living persons.
- **Captures minor edits to remove outdated references to:**
 - Administrative Office of the Courts.
 - Court Facilities Working Group.
 - Subcommittee's membership.
- **Maintains integrity of the standards and their applicability for consistency in identifying courthouses.**

Revised Policy Schedule

- **June 12–26, 2023** – Court/public comments collected for full CFAC review at meeting on June 27th.
- **June 27, 2023** – Court/public comments and Subcommittee’s recommendation presented to full CFAC for review/recommendation to the Judicial Council.
- **July 20–21, 2023** – Judicial Council to review/consider approving the revised policy.

Requested Actions

1. Direct staff to post the draft revised policy for a 2-week court/public comment period; and
2. Recommend the Judicial Council approve the draft revised policy subject to public comments review and concurrence of the full CFAC.

Questions?

I. Purpose of the Policy

The Judicial Council of California (Judicial Council) is responsible for California's courthouses under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 and related legislation, which also includes responsibility for construction of new courthouses and renovation of existing courthouses. It is the policy of the Judicial Council, acting through the Court Facilities Advisory Committee, Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, through its directives to ~~the Judicial Council staff, of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC),~~ to name courthouses based on standards. This will provide consistency in identifying courthouses in California.

The naming of courthouses will follow the standards set forth in this policy in naming new courthouses, and in naming existing courthouses—including court facilities that are renovated.

II. Application of Courthouse Naming Standards

The Judicial Council's naming standards will be applied to newly constructed courthouses and renovated courthouses which the Judicial Council has financed—in whole or in part—and to existing courthouses, where the judicial branch is the facility owner or majority tenant.

III. Names for Trial and Appellate Courthouses

A. Definitions

Court facility refers to any building that the local court occupies to provide its main services, its branch services, or other services and operations. As used in this policy, the word *courthouse* is considered interchangeable with this term.

Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) is an advisory body to the Judicial Council on all facilities-related matters. The members of this advisory committee are appointed by the Chief Justice of California. The CFAC, ~~formerly the Court Facilities Working Group,~~ is charged with providing ongoing oversight of the Judicial Branch program that manages new construction and renovations for the superior courts and Courts of Appeal throughout the state. It oversees the work of the Judicial Council staff AOC in its management of court facilities statewide and in its effort to implement the judicial branch's capital improvement program.

Subcommittee on Courthouse Names (the subcommittee) is the subcommittee of the CFAC charged with responsibility to review and consider options in naming specific new and existing courthouses. The chair of the Subcommittee on Courthouse Names is appointed by the chair of the CFAC. The members of the subcommittee are appointed by the subcommittee chair. ~~Its membership, including the appointed chair, will comprise the following: five superior court judges, an appellate court justice, two members of the State Bar of California, and one professional from the design, construction or real estate industry.~~ The subcommittee is responsible for recommending to the CFAC names for courthouses and in doing so may consider comments from members of CFAC, or refer requests for naming to the Judicial Council where appropriate. The subcommittee's operating protocols, including the term of each member, will be established by the CFAC.

Case type can include but is not limited to the following caseload identifiers: family law, juvenile, criminal, civil, traffic, probate, small claims, mental health, and drug.

Location of a court facility refers to the building’s physical location in either an incorporated (i.e., town or city) or unincorporated (i.e., county or region) geographical area.

B. Naming Standards for Trial and Appellate Courthouses

1. Courthouses will be named based on one of the following two categories:
 - a. Location and case type, which is the category most commonly used; or
 - b. ~~Deceased~~-A person, which is a rarely used category.

A courthouse name will not include the name of any business entity, institution, foundation, or other organization, whether for profit or not for profit.

2. An explanation of each category follows. For all name categories, the courthouse name must include “Superior Court” or “Court of Appeal” *and* “California.” In each case, the building name may include the term “Courthouse,” “Justice Center,” or “Hall of Justice.”

- a. Naming Preference 1: Location and Case Type (Most Commonly Used). It is the preference of the Judicial Council to name courthouses after their location and, if applicable, case type. This convention supports the Judicial Council’s goal of enhancing access to justice because naming courthouses after the location and case type provides users with key information about where the courthouse is located and the type of proceedings conducted within the courthouse.

Examples of courthouse names under the preferred naming standard for trial courts are as follows:

Format Examples	Courthouses	Justice Centers	Halls of Justice
Example 1	El Centro Family Courthouse Superior Court of California County of Imperial	Selma Regional Justice Center Superior Court of California County of Fresno	East County Hall of Justice Superior Court of California County of Alameda
Example 2	El Centro Family Courthouse Superior Court of California Imperial County	Selma Regional Justice Center Superior Court of California Fresno County	East County Hall of Justice Superior Court of California Alameda County

Examples of courthouse names under the preferred naming standard for appellate courts are as follows:

Format Examples	Appellate Courthouse Names
Example 1	State of California Court of Appeal First Appellate District Courthouse
Example 2	California Court of Appeal Fourth Appellate District Division Three
Example 3	State of California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District

b. Naming Preference 2: ~~Deceased~~ A Person (Rarely Used). Naming a courthouse after a ~~deceased~~ person must be carefully considered to protect the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. A courthouse may be named after a ~~deceased~~ person based on upon consideration of all the following criteria:

- i. The person made recognizable, significant contributions to the state or national justice system.
- ii. There exists a rebuttable presumption that, in order to be eligible, ~~the person shall have been deceased a minimum of 10 years.~~ The subcommittee deems that because 10 years is a reasonable period of time ~~to establish the individual's character~~ within which unknown facts would come to light that bear upon the person's character. ~~This 10-year period is consistent with the 10-year practice period requirement for consideration for judgeship in the State of California.[†]~~

The presumption may be overcome in a case of a living person, or a person who has been deceased for fewer than 10 years, where articulable circumstances exist which ensure that the character traits of the person are then fully known (e.g., the person's character and reputation were previously investigated, extensively and repeatedly, in connection with the person's earlier selection or appointment to positions of public service responsibility).

- iii. The person, or the estate of the person, or any otherwise related entity deemed to pose a potential conflict of interest by the subcommittee, does not have any case pending before any court, and no such case is reasonably likely to come before any court, in future litigation.
- iv. The naming does not present a potential conflict of interest as may

[†] Cal. Const., art. VI, § 15. A person is ineligible to be a judge of a court of record unless for 10 years immediately preceding selection, the person has been a member of the State Bar or served as a judge of a court of record in this State.

be viewed by the public, government entities, or private businesses.

- v. Consistency with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

Examples of ~~deceased~~ persons who meet these criteria may include a former Governor of California, a former Chief Justice of California, a former member of the California or United States Supreme Court, a former appellate court justice, a former trial court judge, a former court executive officer, a former president of a state or local bar association, a trial court judge, an appellate court justice, or a former state or federal legislator; ~~or may include a former Governor of California or a former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, or a member of the United States Supreme Court. Courthouses may not be named for living persons.~~

C. Process for Naming Courthouses

Courthouses will be named by the following process:

1. Requests for courthouse naming will be submitted to the chair of the subcommittee by the presiding judge or assistant presiding judge, or the court executive officer or the administrative presiding justice, or the clerk/executive officer of the Court of Appeal, or their designee, of the subject court. Concurrently, the chair of the subcommittee will in turn provide the request(s) to the local court or committee as to process and minimum requirements set forth in this policy.
2. The subcommittee will evaluate each proposed name under the standards set forth in this policy.
3. Upon consideration of any request, the chair of the subcommittee will propose requests for names under section 2(a) preference 1, and all requests under section 2 (b) preference 2, for consideration by the CFAC.
4. Upon consideration, the CFAC shall present a recommendation on the name of a courthouse to the Judicial Council, which presentation will include the subcommittee's recommendation.
5. Where appropriate, the chair of the subcommittee will be delegated by the chair of CFAC to approve standard courthouse names under section 2(a) of this policy, on behalf of the CFAC of the Judicial Council. This approval shall be subject to ratification by the Judicial Council. Requests for those names must have been duly submitted under C.1 of this policy.

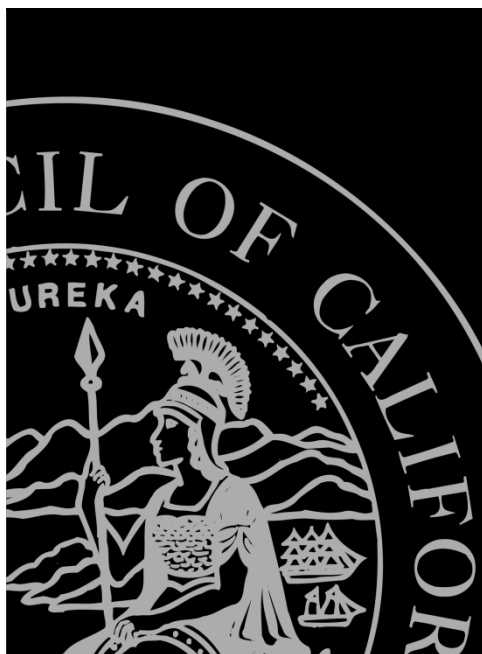
D. Designation of Courthouse Names in Building Signage and Plaques

Signage and plaques on buildings shall designate the duly approved names under this policy subject to the following requirements:

1. Standards: All signage and plaques must comply with the requirements of the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards*² and its addenda as pertain to signage, use of seals by courts³ and plaques.
2. Application of courthouse names: Subject to the foregoing, each state trial courthouse shall have reflected in its exterior signage designated under this policy: “Superior Court of California, County of [County name]” and the Great Seal of the State of California.

² Judicial Council’s *California Trial Court Facilities Standards*, 20~~2006~~.

³ Gov. Code §§ 68074, 68076 *et seq.*



Courthouse Naming Policy

ADOPTED: MAY 11, 2009

REVISED: APRIL 25, 2014



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

JUDICIAL AND COURT OPERATIONS
SERVICES DIVISION

JUDICIAL BRANCH CAPITAL PROGRAM OFFICE

I. Purpose of the Policy

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Case type can include but is not limited to the following caseload identifiers: family law, juvenile, criminal, civil, traffic, probate, small claims, mental health, and drug.

Location of a court facility refers to the building’s physical location in either an incorporated (i.e., town or city) or unincorporated (i.e., county or region) geographical area.

B. Naming Standards for Trial and Appellate Courthouses

1. Courthouses will be named based on one of the following two categories:
 - a. Location and case type, which is the category most commonly used; or
 - b. Deceased person, which is a rarely used category.

A courthouse name will not include the name of any business entity, institution, foundation, or other organization, whether for profit or not for profit.

2. An explanation of each category follows. For all name categories, the courthouse name must include “Superior Court” or “Court of Appeal” *and* “California.” In each case, the building name may include the term “Courthouse,” “Justice Center,” or “Hall of Justice.”

- a. Naming Preference 1: Location and Case Type (Most Commonly Used). It is the preference of the Judicial Council to name courthouses after their location and, if applicable, case type. This convention supports the Judicial Council’s goal of enhancing access to justice because naming courthouses after the location and case type provides users with key information about where the courthouse is located and the type of proceedings conducted within the courthouse.

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Example 1	State of California Court of Appeal First Appellate District Courthouse
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Example 3	State of California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District

- b. Naming Preference 2: Deceased Person (Rarely Used). Naming a courthouse after a deceased person must be carefully considered to protect the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. A courthouse may be named after a deceased person based on *all* the following criteria:
 - i. The person made recognizable, significant contributions to the state or national justice system.
 - ii. The person shall have been deceased a minimum of 10 years. The subcommittee deems that 10 years is a reasonable period of time to establish the individual’s character within which unknown facts would come to light. This 10-year period is consistent with the 10-year practice period requirement for consideration for judgeship in the State of California.¹
 - iii. The person, or the estate of the person, or any otherwise related entity deemed to pose a potential conflict of interest by the subcommittee, does not have any case pending before any court, and no such case is reasonably likely to come before any court, in future litigation.
 - iv. The naming does not present a potential conflict of interest as may be viewed by the public, government entities, or private businesses.
 - v. Consistency with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

Examples of deceased persons who meet these criteria may include a former president of a state or local bar association, a trial court judge, an appellate court justice, or a state or federal legislator; or may include a former Governor of California or a former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, or a member of the United States Supreme Court. Courthouses may not be named for living persons.

¹ Cal. Const., art. VI, § 15. A person is ineligible to be a judge of a court of record unless for 10 years immediately preceding selection, the person has been a member of the State Bar or served as a judge of a court of record in this State.

C. Process for Naming Courthouses

Courthouses will be named by the following process:

1. Requests for courthouse naming will be submitted to the chair of the subcommittee by the presiding judge or assistant presiding judge, or the court executive officer or the administrative presiding justice, or the clerk of the Court of Appeal, or their designee, of the subject court. Concurrently, the chair of the subcommittee will in turn provide the request(s) to the local court or committee as to process and minimum requirements set forth in this policy.
2. The subcommittee will evaluate each proposed name under the standards set forth in this policy.
3. Upon consideration of any request, the chair of the subcommittee will propose requests for names under section 2(a) preference 1, and all requests under section 2 (b) preference 2, for consideration by the CFAC.
4. Upon consideration, the CFAC shall present a recommendation on the name of a courthouse to the Judicial Council, which presentation will include the subcommittee's recommendation.
5. Where appropriate, the chair of the subcommittee will be delegated by the chair of CFAC to approve standard courthouse names under section 2(a) of this policy, on behalf of the CFAC of the Judicial Council. This approval shall be subject to ratification by the Judicial Council. Requests for those names must have been duly submitted under C.1 of this policy.

D. Designation of Courthouse Names in Building Signage and Plaques

Signage and plaques on buildings shall designate the duly approved names under this policy subject to the following requirements:

1. Standards: All signage and plaques must comply with the requirements of the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards*² and its addenda as pertain to signage, use of seals by courts³ and plaques.
2. Application of courthouse names: Subject to the foregoing, each state courthouse shall have reflected in its exterior signage designated under this policy: "Superior Court of California, County of [County name]" and the Great Seal of the State of California.

² Judicial Council's *California Trial Court Facilities Standards*, 2006.

³ Gov. Code §§ 68074, 68076 *et seq.*

Judicial Branch Capital Program
Trial Court Capital Projects - Courthouse Names of Projects Completed and in Construction

April 25, 2014

a	b	c	d
County	Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan Project Name	Courthouse Names	Project Status
1 Butte	New North Butte County Courthouse	Superior Court of California, North Butte County Courthouse	Construction
2 Calaveras	New San Andreas Courthouse	Superior Court of California, Calaveras County Courthouse	Completed
3 Fresno	New Juvenile Delinquency Court	Fresno County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Court	Completed
4 Fresno	Renovate B.F. Sisk Courthouse	B. F. Sisk Courthouse, County of Fresno	Completed
5 Kings	New Hanford Courthouse	Superior Court of California, County of Kings	Construction
6 Lassen	New Susanville Courthouse	Hall of Justice, Superior Court of California, County of Lassen	Completed
7 Madera	New Madera Courthouse	Superior Court of California, County of Madera	Construction
8 Merced	New Downtown Merced Courthouse	Superior Court of California, County of Merced	Completed
9 Mono	New Mammoth Lakes Courthouse	Mammoth Lakes Courthouse	Completed
10 Plumas/Sierra ³	New Portola/Loyalton Courthouse	Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse	Completed
11 Riverside	New Riverside Mid-County Region Courthouse	Banning Justice Center, Superior Court of California, Riverside County	Construction
12 San Benito	New Hollister Courthouse	Superior Court of California San Benito County	Completed
13 San Bernardino	New San Bernardino Courthouse	San Bernardino Justice Center	Completed
14 San Diego ³	New Central San Diego Courthouse	San Diego Central Courthouse	Construction
15 San Joaquin ¹	Renovation and Addition to Juvenile Justice Center	County of San Joaquin Juvenile Justice Center	Construction
16 San Joaquin	New Stockton Courthouse	Superior Court of San Joaquin County Stockton Courthouse	Construction
17 Santa Clara ³	New Santa Clara Family Justice Center	Santa Clara Family Justice Center	Construction
18 Solano ¹	Renovation to Fairfield Old Solano Courthouse	Solano County Courthouse	Construction
19 Sutter ²	New Yuba City Courthouse	Superior Court of California, County of Sutter	Construction
20 Tulare	New Porterville Courthouse	Superior Court of California, County of Tulare South County Justice Center	Completed
21 Yolo	New Woodland Courthouse	Yolo Superior Court, State of California	Construction

Footnotes:

1. The current name on the building is likely to remain the same after the project is completed.
2. Standard name is designated pending formal designation by the court.
3. In some cases, the name of the courthouses and the exterior building signage may differ.

Courthouse Naming Request: Name the Fourth Appellate District Courthouse in the City of Santa Ana

CFAC Subcommittee on Courthouse Names Meeting
June 12, 2023



Fourth Appellate District Courthouse

- Fourth Appellate District has three facility locations:
 - Division One in San Diego.
 - Division Two in Riverside.
 - **Division Three in Santa Ana.**
- **Division Three Courthouse in Santa Ana:**
 - Serves Orange County specifically and located in Santa Ana Civic Center.
 - Designed and constructed under Judicial Council management.
 - State-owned, 3-story, 52,000-square-foot building.
 - **Built in 2009 and never named.**

Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three Courthouse

Note: Exterior signage only
generally identifies the building.



Appellate District's Proposal

- Name the existing Division Three Courthouse after former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California, **Cruz Reynoso:**
 - To honor his many contributions to the legal community and years of service until his passing in 2021.
 - To honor his service with distinction to the California Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California.
 - To highlight his achievements to inspire/empower young people, particularly Latino youth, to seek to achieve their passions.

Background

- **Justice Reynoso was a trailblazing lawyer, jurist, and law professor:**
 - Born and raised in Orange County.
 - Only Latino in graduating Berkeley Law School class in 1959.
 - Legislative Assistant in California State Senate from 1959–60.
 - Associate General Counsel for Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1967–68.
 - Executive Director of California Rural Legal Assistance from 1969–72.
 - Appointed to Third District Court of Appeal in 1976.
 - First Latino Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California in 1982 (served from 1982–87).

Background, *continued*

- **Law School faculty at University of New Mexico, UCLA, and UC Davis.**
- **Nationally recognized for his talents and efforts through many appointments, including:**
 - **Appointed by President Carter in 1979** as a member of the Congressional Select Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Policy.
 - **Appointed by the US Senate in 1993 (serving until 2004)** to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
 - **Appointed by President Obama in 2009** to the Justice/Civil Rights Sub-team of the White House Transition Team.

Background, *continued*

- **Recipient of numerous awards, including:**
 - State Bar of California's Bernard E. Witkin Medal.
 - UC Davis Medal of Honor.
 - Hispanic Heritage Award in Education.
 - **Presidential Medal of Freedom:**
 - **For his public service and efforts to address social inequities.**
 - **United States' highest civilian honor.**
 - **Awarded by President Clinton in 2000.**
 - **NOTE: The background check to qualify for this would have been extensive.**

Requested Action

Given the naming request's compliance with the provisions of the Revised Courthouse Naming Policy:

1. Recommend the Judicial Council approve the Fourth Appellate District's naming request subject to conformance to the Revised Courthouse Naming Policy and concurrence of the full CFAC.

Questions?



Court of Appeal

FOURTH DISTRICT, DIVISION THREE
601 WEST SANTA ANA BLVD.
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701
(714) 571-2734
FAX (714) 571-2735

CHAMBERS OF
KATHLEEN E. O'LEARY
PRESIDING JUSTICE

March 9, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Hon. Keith D. Davis, Chair
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names
Court Facilities Advisory Committee
kddavis@sb-court.org

Re: Courthouse Naming Policy

Dear Judge Davis:

I write to request a variance from the Judicial Council's policy that courthouses should only be named for an individual who has been deceased for ten years. I believe there is good cause for an exception to allow the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Three building in the City of Santa Ana in Orange County to be named for the Honorable Cruz Reynoso. Justice Reynoso died on May 7, 2021, five days after his 90th birthday.

The Honorable Cruz Reynoso is a beloved native son of the City of Brea in the County of Orange. He was born in Brea, and when Justice Reynoso was seven years old, the family moved to a barrio outside of the City of La Habra also in Orange County. When the Reynoso family moved there, the United States Postal Service refused to provide Rural Free Delivery service within the barrio even though non-minority families living nearby received the service. A young Cruz Reynoso circulated a petition demanding service. The Postmaster General's office in Washington, D.C. responded to his petition and ordered that mail delivery be provided to the barrio (much to the chagrin of the local postmaster). Justice Reynoso was quoted in the 2009 California Bar Journal saying his boyhood success helped motivate him to "keep doing things that needed to be done." He did just that and became the first Latino Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court in 1982.

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Orange County's population of over 3 million persons is 34 percent Hispanic/Latino and the City of Santa Ana has a Hispanic/Latino population of over 75 percent. The California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, is located in the City of Santa Ana in the County of Orange. Justice Reynoso spent a lifetime fighting the prejudices he first encountered during his childhood in Orange County. He serves as an extraordinary example of how a Latino child from a barrio in Orange County can make a difference in his community and in the world and become an icon in his or her profession.

Cruz Reynoso was a trailblazing lawyer, jurist, and law professor. He was the only Latino in his graduating class at Berkeley Law in 1959. Justice Reynoso began his legal career in private law practice in El Centro, California. He served as a legislative assistant in the California State Senate from 1959 to 1960. He was an Associate General Counsel for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1967 and 1968. He later became the Director of California Rural Legal Assistance.

Justice Reynoso served as a faculty member at the University of New Mexico School of Law, the UCLA School of Law, and the UC Davis School of Law. In May 2011, Chapman University School of Law, here in Orange County, conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon him. His awards are far too numerous to mention in their entirety, but they include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the United States' highest civilian honor – awarded by President Bill Clinton), the State Bar of California's Bernard E. Witkin Medal, the UC Davis Medal of Honor, and the Hispanic Heritage Award in Education. Justice Reynoso served on the California Court of Appeal, Third District, from 1976 until 1981, when Governor Jerry Brown appointed him to the Supreme Court.

Cruz Reynoso, the boy who grew up in a barrio in Orange County, went on to be nationally recognized for his talents and efforts. President Jimmy Carter appointed Justice Reynoso to serve as a member of the Congressional Select Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Policy. The United States Senate appointed Justice Reynoso to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in April 1993. President-elect Barack Obama appointed Justice Reynoso to his White House transition team in early 2009, as part of a justice and civil rights sub-team.

Justice Reynoso's story is a model for all of us, particularly the Latino youth in our county. A courthouse in Orange County named for Justice Reynoso would highlight his achievements and would encourage and empower many children who come from similar circumstances to seek to achieve their dreams.

Without a doubt, naming a courthouse after a deceased person must be carefully considered to protect the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. I believe a courthouse named for Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso would not only protect, but would enhance, the integrity and independence of the branch. Justice Reynoso made many recognizable and significant contributions to the state and national justice system. There are no issues of conflict of interest. The only standard Justice Reynoso does not meet is the period of time since his death.

The stated purpose of the ten-year waiting period is to allow sufficient time to establish the individual's character within which unknown facts would come to light. Justice Reynoso was a public person for the vast majority of his life. The details of his personal and professional life were widely researched and published over the years. He was thoroughly vetted not only for his positions as an Associate Justice on the Third District Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court, but also as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. When a person is the subject of such intense public scrutiny during their lifetime, it is not reasonable to assume there are unknown facts that will come to light over the next nine years.

Your question is likely, why can't this wait for another eight years? Certainly, if this was just about honoring Cruz Reynoso, the man, naming a courthouse for Justice Reynoso would be a tribute to his legacy whenever it is done. But to wait eight years to name a courthouse in Orange County for an Orange County native who became the first Latino Justice of the California Supreme Court means delaying the inspiration and motivation of young Orange County Latinos needlessly. It is difficult to imagine the potential that would be lost by an eight-year delay. Now is the time to motivate our youth to do as Justice Reynoso did – "keep doing things that need to be done."

Sadly, there are very few buildings named for prominent Latinos in Orange County, especially considering its Latino population exceeds one million people. There are no such public (non-school) buildings that I was able to find. Some of the rare examples are a building named after Cesar Chavez at Santa Ana College and a Santa Ana high school named after Santa Ana postmaster Hector G. Godinez, along with a few intermediate and grammar schools. Fullerton College has announced its intention to dedicate the Cruz Reynoso Hall on September 14, 2023. Naming a courthouse after Justice Cruz Reynoso would be a much needed and significant acknowledgement of the contributions made to our county and our state by him and the Latino community.

I recognize to name a courthouse after Justice Reynoso at this time would be a departure from the Judicial Council's guidelines, but it appears it would not be the first such departure. The legendary Judge Richard E. Arnason died in 2015 at the age of 94.

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The naming of a justice center in Contra Costa for him was approved by the Judicial Council in 2008, seven years prior to his death. The Hall of Justice in Alameda County was named for retired Judge George E. McDonald who died at the age of 95 in 2016. And in 2008, a Merced County courthouse was renamed for the Robert M. Falasco Justice Center in honor of Judge Falasco who died in 2012. The Charles James Ogletree Jr. Courthouse naming ceremony took place on February 17, 2023. Ogletree grew up in Merced and went on to be one of Harvard Law School's most notable professors. Unfortunately, the seventy-year-old was unable to attend the ceremony.

These are just some of the exceptions I have observed to the rule. What is clear is that exceptions can only be made for exceptional people. I strongly believe Justice Cruz Reynoso is such an exceptional person.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. O'Leary
Presiding Justice

cc: Hon. Patricia Guerrero, Chief Justice of California*
Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee*
Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Vice-Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee*
Hon. Donald Cole Byr*
Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego*
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi*
Mr. Stephan Castellanos*
Hon. Robert D. Foiles*
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley*
Hon. William F. Highberger*
Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.)*
Ms. Krista LeVier*
Hon. Gary R. Orozco*
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)*
Mr. Lee Seale*

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Mr. Larry Spikes*
Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta*
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.*
(* *by email only*)

**Court Facilities Advisory Committee's
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names**

As of June 12, 2023

Hon. Keith D. Davis (Ret.), Chair
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Bernardino

Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Fresno

Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Glenn

Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Solano

Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi
Attorney at Law

Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.
Attorney at Law