



## Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on December 14, 2012

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**Title**

Judicial Branch Education: Renaming the Office of Education/CJER

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Effective Date**

Immediately

**Recommended by**

CJER Governing Committee  
Hon. Robert L. Dondero, Chair

**Date of Report**

November 28, 2012

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### Executive Summary

The Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research recommends that the Office of Education/CJER be renamed the Center for Judiciary Education and Research (CJER). The Governing Committee has determined that the proposed renaming more accurately captures the mission and scope of this office and the work that it does for the entire California judiciary in the area of education. In addition, this name highlights the work that the Judicial Council, the California Judges Association, and the Continuing Education of the Bar accomplished in creating an entity that is devoted to education for the California Judicial Branch.

### Recommendation

The CJER Governing Committee unanimously recommends that the Judicial Council rename the Office of Education/CJER the Center for Judiciary Education and Research (CJER), effective immediately. The CJER Governing Committee—as well as the Administrative Director of the Courts, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Director of the Office of Education/CJER—believes that this action is appropriate, reflects the expanded role of this office from being devoted to

judicial education to providing education for the entire judiciary, and preserves (as well as honors) the identity of the original education entity created more than forty years ago.

### **Previous Council Action**

The Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) was established in 1973 after representatives from the California Judges Association (CJA), the Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) met to explore options to find permanent funding and an appropriate organizational structure to provide education to superior, municipal, and justice court judges. The California Judges Association had been providing educational programs to judges since 1959, and during this same time frame, the Judicial Council and the AOC had also been offering educational programs for judges, holding the first set of workshops for municipal court judges in 1962.

The agreement between CJA and the Judicial Council/AOC was modeled after an agreement that the CEB had with the University of California. CJA would provide faculty, curriculum, and materials; the Judicial Council/AOC would provide organizational and funding structure; and the two organizations would cease to offer duplicate programs. The Judicial Council transferred all of its educational activities to CJER, and CJA relinquished administration of the Judicial College.

In 1993, the relationship between the Judicial Council/AOC and the CJER Governing Committee was more clearly formalized with the adoption of CRC 1029 (now rule 10.50 of the California Rules of Court). The Governing Committee was added as one of the advisory committees to the Judicial Council and charged with maintaining a high quality and independent judicial education arm of the California judicial system.

In 1994, the AOC undertook a reorganization of workload and personnel, and the AOC's administrative education unit (Judicial Administration Institute of California [JAIC]) was consolidated with CJER. The Education Division/CJER was established as part of the AOC. The Education Division/CJER, in effect, became the education arm of the AOC and was now responsible for judicial and administrative education in the branch. Earlier this year, as a result of the most recent reorganization of the AOC, the Education Division/CJER was restructured and renamed the Office of Education/CJER.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The CJER Governing Committee understands the need for a recently restructured organization such as the AOC to have a clear, unambiguous identity so that the groups it serves can be assured that the resources they rely on will continue. Even though the Office of Education was officially known as the Education Division/CJER of the AOC, in vernacular by the vast majority of judicial branch members it continued to be known as and referred to simply as CJER. In other words, the original acronym stuck and continued to stick even after CJER merged with JAIC. In

some ways, *CJER* can be seen as a term of art for judicial education in California, much the same way *Xerox* is viewed as *photocopying*.

### **Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications**

Initially, the Center for Judicial Education and Research was proposed as the new name, but the word *Judicial* did not seem to include the critical administrative education this office also delivers. Therefore the word *Judiciary* was selected because it lent a broader, more inclusive meaning to the current mission of this office.

### **Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts**

Any implementation costs would be minimal. The AOC memo and letterhead templates would change, as would various signage components, such as e-mail signatures and promotional materials this office promulgates.

### **Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives**

This report furthers Goal V, Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence.

