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Commission for Impartial Courts Welcomes Comment on Judicial Election Proposals

Deadline Extended Until July 10, 2009

San Francisco—The Commission for Impartial Courts today announced that it has extended the deadline to comment on its final report, which includes a comprehensive set of recommendations designed to ensure the impartiality and accountability of California courts. The new deadline for comment is July 10, 2009, 45 days later than the previous deadline.

The report contains 109 recommendations that cover the selection and retention of judges, conduct by judicial candidates, campaign finance and advertising, and public education and information about the judiciary, judicial elections, and judicial candidates. The recommendations are available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/tflists/commimpart.htm.

“The new deadline of July 10, 2009, will give the public and the legal community more time to comment on the important proposals developed by the commission,” said Christine Patton, project director and regional administrative director of the Administrative Office of the Courts’ Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region. The commission plans to submit its final report to the Judicial Council on October 23, 2009, rather than in August.

The commission is led by a 19-member steering committee chaired by Associate Justice Ming W. Chin of the California Supreme Court. During the past two years, the steering committee and four task forces have conducted research on judicial elections, held public hearings, and developed final recommendations that will go to the Judicial Council.

Questions about the proposals may be directed to Ms. Patton at christine.patton@jud.ca.gov.

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.

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