



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Chief Justice Appoints New Members to State Judicial Council**

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of an appellate court justice, three trial court judges, a court commissioner, two court administrators, and three attorneys to the Judicial Council of California, the constitutional policymaking body of the California courts.

The appointees are: Justice Eileen C. Moore, Fourth Appellate District; Judge Charles W. McCoy, Jr., Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Judge Barbara J. Miller, Superior Court of Alameda County; Judge Dennis E. Murray, Superior Court of Tehama County; Court Commissioner Ronald E. Albers, Superior Court of San Francisco County; Ms. Deena C. Fawcett, Clerk/Administrator, Third Appellate District; Ms. Sharol H. Strickland, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Butte County; Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi, past-president of the State Bar of California; Thomas V. Girardi, partner with the Los Angeles law firm Girardi & Keese; and Barbara J. Parker, chief assistant city attorney for the City of Oakland.

Chaired by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council consists of 14 judicial members appointed by the Chief Justice, 4 attorney members appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, 1 member from each house of the Legislature, 6 advisory members, and the Administrative Director of the Courts, who serves as secretary to the council.

Members of the council are selected through a nominating procedure designed to attract applicants from throughout the legal system with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and geographic locations. The council's Executive and Planning Committee solicits nominations and applications and then forwards the names of three nominees for each council position to the Chief Justice for consideration. The committee gives added consideration to persons who have served on Judicial Council advisory committees or task forces.

Terms on the council are staggered, with one-third of the council's membership changing each year. All new members have been appointed for three-year terms that will begin on September 15, 2005.

Established by the state Constitution in 1926, the 27-member Judicial Council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in the nation's largest court system. In recent years, the council has played a leadership role in the unification of the state's municipal and superior courts, state funding of the courts, the ongoing transfer of trial court facilities from the counties to the state, jury system reforms, and numerous other initiatives to make the courts more effective in responding to the needs of Californians.

A summary of the appointments follows.

**Associate Justice Eileen C. Moore**, of the Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, was nominated for her position in 2000. She previously served on the Superior Court of Orange County (1989–2000). Justice Moore has been active in several Judicial Council activities. She is currently chairperson of the council's Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (2001–present) and has served on the council's Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (1997–2000) and the council's Committee on Certification for Interpreters for the Deaf (1990). Justice Moore also has been active in numerous professional and community organizations, including the California Judges Association, the Orange County Family Violence Council, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, and Vietnam Veterans of America. Justice Moore has received many awards, including the Consumer Attorneys Association of California Appellate Justice of the Year (2002) and the American Board of Trial Advocates Trial Judge Civility Award (1999). Justice Moore succeeds Justice Laurence Donald Kay.

**Judge Charles W. McCoy, Jr.**, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, was appointed in 1992 and is supervising judge of the civil departments in the Central District's Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Before his appointment, Judge McCoy was a partner with the Los Angeles firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton (1975–1992) and chief of staff for the California State Board of Equalization (1991–1992). Judge McCoy is active on several Judicial Council committees, including the council's Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions, the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, and the Judicial Sabbatical Review Committee. He also has been active in numerous superior court activities, including serving as managing judge of the complex litigation courts of Los Angeles and as chairperson of the court's Research Attorney and Law Clerk Committee. Judge McCoy is also founder of the One-to-One Program, an outreach to at-risk youth designed to dissuade them from behavior entangling them in the criminal justice system. Judge McCoy succeeds Judge Jack Komar.

**Presiding Judge Barbara J. Miller**, of the Superior Court of Alameda County, was elected in 1996 after serving as a court commissioner since 1988. Previously, she was in private practice from 1978 to 1988, including six years with the San Francisco firm Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges, now Thelen, Reid and Priest. She serves on the Judicial Council's Working Group on Court Security and on the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and its Executive Committee. Judge Miller also has served on the council's Trial Court Budget Working Group and the Family Law Subcommittee of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. At the Superior Court of Alameda County, Judge Miller convened the first Education Forum in the county, which brought together judges, legislators, law enforcement, and other community groups to begin a community education program on the judicial system, and started the first Unified Domestic Violence Court in the county, which is now available in all of the superior court's major locations. Judge Miller is the recipient of the Alameda County Bar Association Judicial Distinguished Service Award (2005) and the Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association's Trial Judge of the Year award (2001). Judge Miller succeeds Judge Heather D. Morse.

**Presiding Judge Dennis E. Murray**, of the Superior Court of Tehama County, was appointed in 1990 and has been presiding judge since 1997. Previously, Judge Murray served as a judge of the justice court in Red Bluff from 1980 to 1990 and in the Tehama County District Attorney's Office from 1978 to 1980. Judge Murray has been active in a variety of Judicial Council activities, including the Trial Court Budget Working Group, the Executive Legislative Action Network, the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, and the Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee. Judge Murray is also a member of the California Judges Association and the Cow County Judges Association. Judge Murray succeeds Judge Eric L. DuTemple.

**Court Commissioner Ronald E. Albers**, of the Superior Court of San Francisco County, was appointed in 2002 and presides over the San Francisco Drug Court. Previously, he served as head attorney in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, managing misdemeanor, juvenile, and felony trial units and handling over 100 jury trials. Commissioner Albers has served on the council's Court Technology Advisory Committee and the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Criminal Law Education Committee. Previously, he served as chairperson of the State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation and the bar's Board of Governors (1998–2002). Commissioner Albers is the recipient of the State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award (1991) and the Decade of Service Award from the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (1993). Commissioner Albers succeeds Commissioner Patricia H. Wong as an advisory member.

**Ms. Deena C. Fawcett**, Clerk/Administrator of the Court of Appeal's Third Appellate District based in Sacramento, has over 19 years of experience with California appellate courts. She joined the Third Appellate District in 1986 as an administrative assistant, was promoted to assistant clerk/administrator in 1988, and was appointed as clerk/administrator in 2001. Ms. Fawcett is president of the California Appellate Court Clerks Association and

has been active in Judicial Council activities, including the Reporting of the Record Task Force and the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Managers and Supervisors Education Committee. Ms. Fawcett has been a member of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks since 1997 and served on its executive committee (2000–2002). Ms. Fawcett is coordinator of her court's Appellate Court Outreach Program, which received a Ralph N. Kleps Award in 2001. Ms. Fawcett fills a new advisory position on the council.

**Ms. Sharol H. Strickland**, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Butte County, has 25 years of court administration experience and has served actively on numerous Judicial Council committees, task forces, and working groups. These include the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants, the Trial Court Budget Working Group, the Trial Court Executive Management Budget Working Group, the Judicial Needs Workload Assessment Policy Committee, and the Presiding Judge/Court Executive Officer Education Committee. Ms. Strickland began her career in the Sonoma County Municipal Court (1980–1992), moved to the Contra Costa Municipal Court (1992–1995), and became Court Executive Officer for the Butte County Superior Court in 1995. Ms. Strickland succeeds Ms. Tressa S. Kentner.

**Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi** is past-president of the State Bar (2003–2004) and has served on its Board of Governors (2000–2004). He was named to the Judicial Council by the State Bar Board of Governors. A sole practitioner with the Law Offices of Anthony P. Capozzi, he previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney (1973–1979) and an adjunct professor for San Joaquin College of Law (1974–1978). He also has been president of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (1999) and president of the Fresno County Bar Association (1999). Mr. Capozzi succeeds Mr. James E. Herman, who was appointed to the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County.

**Mr. Thomas V. Girardi** has been a prominent trial lawyer with the Los Angeles firm of Girardi & Keese and was named to the Judicial Council by the State Bar Board of Governors. He has tried over 100 jury cases to conclusion and received numerous awards, including the Ted Horn Memorial Award (2004) from the Consumer Attorney Association of Los Angeles, the Trial Lawyer of the Year award (1996) from Lawyers for Public Justice, and the Cal-ABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year award from the American Board of Trial Advocates (1996). He is also an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Mr. Girardi succeeds Mr. David J. Pasternak.

**Ms. Barbara J. Parker** has been the chief assistant city attorney for the City of Oakland since 2000, managing a division of 25 attorneys in five units and overseeing all advice to the mayor, city council, and city boards, commissions and departments. Previously, Ms. Parker was a supervising deputy city attorney, heading the labor and employment unit (1999–2000), and senior deputy city attorney (1991–1999) for Oakland, counsel to Kaiser Foundation Health Plans, practicing health and employment law (1987–1990), and counsel to Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation practicing general corporate law and handling

acquisitions and divestitures (1983-1987). Ms. Parker also served as an Assistant United States Attorney (1978-1983), chief deputy director of the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning (1977-1978), and associate attorney at the San Francisco firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. Ms. Parker is president of the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, Inc. and a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association. She succeeds Ms. Ann Miller Ravel.

*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.*

**Note to Editors:** For a more complete description of the structure and role of the state Judicial Council, including a roster of current and past members, see the *Profile of the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts* on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/profilejc.pdf>. For a print copy of the recently updated third edition of the profile, call the Office of Communications at 415-865-7740 or e-mail [pubinfo@jud.ca.gov](mailto:pubinfo@jud.ca.gov).