



The Capitol Connection

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS • OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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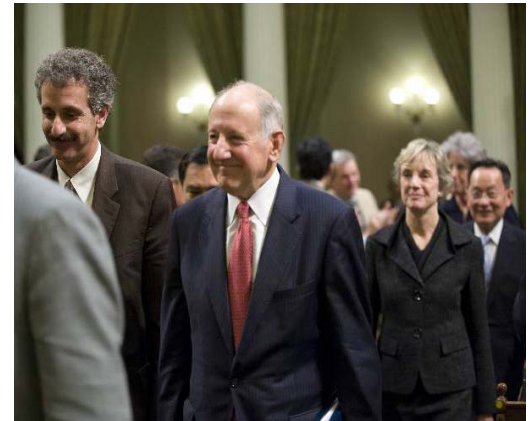
June 4
Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin.

June 15
Budget must be passed by midnight.

CHIEF JUSTICE: LEGISLATURE MUST RESTORE COURT BUDGETS; BENCH AND BAR LEADERS SUPPORTIVE

On February 23, the State of the Judiciary address delivered by Chief Justice Ronald M. George wrapped up a full month of outreach activities that saw more than 60 judges, bar association leaders, and legal services representatives completing nearly 150 visits with legislators and staff members.

Members of the Bench-Bar Coalition (BBC), California Access to Justice Commission, and court delegations headed by presiding judges from throughout the state advanced priorities that the Chief Justice would emphasize in his speech: (1) the need to reopen the state’s courthouses by restoring



Chief Justice Ronald M. George and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court enter the Assembly Chamber for the State of the Judiciary address with Assembly Member Mike Feuer (l) and members of the Senate and Assembly Joint Escort Committee. (Photo courtesy of Russell Stiger/Assembly)

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Pérez Sworn In as New Assembly Speaker

Assembly Member John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles) was sworn in on March 1, 2010, as the 68th Speaker of the California State Assembly, replacing Assembly Member Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) who leaves the Assembly this year due to term limits. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno administered the oath of office in the Assembly chamber before a packed audience that included Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, constitutional officers, and several former Assembly Speakers, including Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Pérez’s cousin.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California, has met with Speaker Pérez to discuss judicial branch budget and legislative priorities. “I am impressed by the Speaker’s commitment to helping the branch arrive at effective solutions and I am looking forward to

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Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Carlos R. Moreno and Assembly Speaker John Pérez certify the oath of office following the swearing in ceremony in the Assembly chambers.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL–SPONSORED LEGISLATION

In the second year of the 2009–2010 Legislative Session, the Judicial Council is carrying out its legislative priorities by sponsoring the following bills:

CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS

SB 1274 (Committee on Judiciary), as amended March 23, 2010. Electronic service of process.

Expressly authorizes service by electronic notification. Also authorizes electronic service of all types of documents and expands the court's ability to serve certain documents electronically, which

will promote its use and increase the overall efficiency of the service process. **Status:** Senate Appropriations Committee. *For more information, contact Daniel Pone at daniel.pone@jud.ca.gov or 916-323-3121.*

COURT OPERATIONS

AB 1926 (Evans), as amended March 18, 2010. Court records: preservation guidelines.

Authorizes courts to create, maintain, and preserve records in any form or forms—including paper, optical, electronic, magnetic, micrographic, or photographic

media, or other technology. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules to establish the guidelines or standards for the creation, maintenance, reproduction, and preservation of court records. The amended statutes would not apply to court reporters' transcripts or electronic recordings made as the official record of oral proceedings. **Status:** Assembly Appropriations Committee. *For more information, contact Tracy Kenny at tracy.kenny@jud.ca.gov or 916-323-3121.* ■

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The following is an update on selected bills of interest to the courts from the second year of the 2009–2010 Legislative Session, as of **April 28, 2010.**

CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS

AB 2119 (Tran), as introduced. Civil procedure: deadlines: computation.

Provides that where any law governing civil procedure requires an act to be performed no later than a specified number of days before a hearing date, the last day to perform that act shall be determined by counting backward from the hearing date, excluding the date of the hearing. **Status:** Senate Judiciary Committee **JC Position:** Support.

AB 2271 (Silva), as amended March 17, 2010. Probate: appeals.

Provides, among other things, that when an appeal is being taken in certain probate matters for the purpose of preventing injury or loss to a person or property, the trial court may appoint a temporary trustee to exercise specified powers as if no appeal were pending.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee **JC Position:** No position yet taken.

AB 2284 (Evans), as introduced. Jury trial: rules of court.

Authorizes the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to establish procedures for conducting expedited jury trials in civil cases where the parties stipulate that those rules and procedures shall apply, including provision for a jury of fewer than 12

members. This bill is being used as a placeholder for potential legislation that may be needed following public comments on proposed rules of court on expedited jury trials that are currently out for public comment.

Status: In Senate **JC Position:** No position.

SB 1038 (Harman), as amended April 26, 2010. Powers of attorney: duties.

Provides, among other things, that an attorney-in-fact who breaches a fiduciary duty can be charged with interest for any loss or depreciation in value of the property of the principal, any profit made through the breach, or any profit that would have accrued to the principal if the loss or profit is a result of the

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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breach. Allows the court, in its discretion, to excuse the attorney-in-fact if he or she acted reasonably and in good faith, or, if the attorney-in-fact acted in bad faith, he or she can be held liable for twice the value of the property recovered.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

JC Position: No position.

SB 1041 (Harman), as introduced. Hearsay evidence: wills and revocable trusts.

Provides that evidence of a statement made by a declarant who is unavailable as a witness that he or she has or has not established or revoked a revocable trust, or that identifies his or her revocable trust, is not made inadmissible by the hearsay rule (similar to the existing hearsay exception for wills).

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

JC Position: Support.

COURT FACILITIES, EMPLOYEES, AND TECHNOLOGY

AB 790 (Hernandez), as amended March 22, 2010. State employee compensation.

Provides a mechanism to allow most state employees, not including judicial branch employees, to receive their full pay and benefits when the state budget has not yet

been passed.

Status: Senate Floor, failed passage. An identical measure, AB 1699, has been introduced.

JC Position: Oppose unless amended.

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC

AB 1847 (Furutani), as amended April 15, 2010. Restitution orders.

Provides that with respect to certain DUI cases, the court in its order to pay restitution may, upon a request of the prosecuting attorney or pursuant to its own authority, order that the prosecuting agency be given access to information regarding the defendant's assets and financial records, and authority to carry out wage garnishment or lien procedures applicable to the defendant, including, but not limited to, a writ of attachment of property.

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee

JC Position: No position.

AB 1925 (Salas), as amended April 20, 2010. Diversion: veterans.

Authorizes superior courts to develop and implement veterans' courts for eligible veterans of the United States military with the objective of, among other things, creating a dedicated calendar or a locally developed collaborative court-supervised veterans mental health program or system that

leads to the placement of as many mentally ill offenders who are veterans of the United States military, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, or any mental health problem stemming from military service, in community treatment as is feasible and consistent with public safety. Authorizes the veterans' courts to operate as a preguilty plea program, deferred entry of judgment program, or a postguilty plea program where the defendant has entered a guilty plea or has been sentenced and is on probation.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: No position yet taken.

AB 2056 (Miller), as amended April 28, 2010. Criminal procedure: continuance: assault with intent to commit rape.

Adds cases involving the crime of assault with intent to commit rape to the list of types of cases that are categorically eligible for a good cause continuance in criminal proceedings when the prosecuting attorney assigned to the case has another trial, preliminary hearing, or motion to suppress in progress in another case.

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee

JC Position: Oppose.

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*JC = Judicial Council.

Special Session Produces No Changes to the Judicial Branch Budget

The fiscal challenges facing the state of California continue to dominate the work of the Legislature. In January, the Governor released his budget plan for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009–2010 and the entirety of Fiscal Year 2010–2011. The budget plan seeks to address a shortfall of \$18.9 billion and to provide the state with a \$1 billion reserve, for a total of \$19.9 billion in funding solutions.

The Governor's package holds a mixture of good news and bad news for the judicial branch. The good news is the package would not result in a net spending reduction for the branch when the enacted budget for FY 2009–2010 is compared with the proposed budget for FY 2010–2011. The bad news, however, is that the package includes risks that could have a dramatic impact on the delivery of justice, as well as preserving the unsustainable cuts adopted in the 2009–2010 budget.

The budget shortfall for the judicial branch, and particularly the trial courts, began with the enactment of Budget Act for FY 2008–2009. Prior to FY 2008–2009, state trial courts received an annual adjustment based on the State Appropriations Limit (SAL) to address baseline increases, marginal workload increases, contractual obligations, and other court initiatives. The justification for the annual SAL adjustment was to ensure "a predictable fiscal environment" in order to guarantee a consistent level of access to justice. However, to address the shortfalls in the state General Fund, the FY 2008–2009 budget did not appropriate a full SAL adjustment. Instead, trial courts received an adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index, which yielded about half of the funding otherwise promised by SAL.

The Budget Act of 2009, enacted in February 2009, and its revision, enacted in July 2009, continued to reduce state funding for judicial branch operations. Aside from providing no SAL adjustment, the Budget Act cut General Fund support for the judicial branch by \$414 million, through a combination of program-

matic and unallocated reductions. The Governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010–2011 does not restore those losses, increasing the gap between the cost of existing court workload and obligations, and state funding, as unfunded court costs continue to grow.

In addition, the Governor's Budget proposes two fund shifts in state trial court funding that could result in \$646.9 million in General Fund savings. Each year, the Trial Court Trust Fund receives a General Fund transfer to support statewide trial court operations. The Governor's Budget proposes to replace, dollar-for-dollar, General Fund support with revenue from local redevelopment agencies (\$350 million), and his proposed Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Program. However, it should be noted that each of the fund shifts carries a risk that could result in less than projected General Fund savings, or a significant loss in state trial court funding.

The revision to the budget for FY 2009–2010, enacted in July 2009, included the redirection of \$2.05 billion in revenue slated for Redevelopment Agencies. The \$2.05 billion was divided over two fiscal years: \$1.7 billion in the current year and \$350 million in the budget year. Although, the current year portion supports public education, the budget proposes to allocate the 2010–2011 budget year portion (\$350 million) to the trial courts. The California Redevelopment Association has filed a lawsuit, challenging the constitutionality of the proposed fund shift. The case is pending in the Superior Court of Sacramento County, which previously ruled in favor of the California Redevelopment Association in a lawsuit with a similar fund shift.

The Governor's Budget also includes a \$296.9 million fund shift related to the implementation of a proposed ASE Program. The program would allow cities and counties to install automated speed enforcement systems, which are camera devices

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Speaker Announces Policy Committee Changes; Republicans to Chair Local Government, Veterans Affairs

Just over a week following his swearing-in ceremony, Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez announced his Democratic leadership team and new committee assignments. Pérez appointed Bay Area Assembly Member **Fiona Ma** (D-12) as Speaker pro Tempore while retaining Compton Assembly Member **Isadore Hall III** (D-52), appointed by former Speaker Karen Bass, as Assistant Speaker pro Tempore. Whittier Assembly Member **Charles Calderon** (D-58) will serve as Majority Floor Leader, and Assembly Member **Jerry Hill** (D-19), who represents portions of San Mateo County, will serve as Democratic Caucus chair.

Pérez also appointed Los Angeles Assembly Member **Mike Feuer** (D-42), who will retain his chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, to the new leadership

post of Majority Policy Leader, and Berkeley Assembly Member **Nancy Skinner** (D-14) will chair the Rules Committee.

For the first time in recent history, Republican members will serve as committee chairs under a Democratic speaker. Santa Clarita Assembly Member **Cameron Smyth** (R-38) will chair the Local Government Committee and Yucca Valley Assembly Member **Paul Cook** (R-65) will chair the Veterans Affairs committee.

Following are assignments for Assembly committees that typically hear judicial branch legislative and budget issues: ■

APPROPRIATIONS	BUDGET SUB No. 4	JUDICIARY	PUBLIC SAFETY
<p>Chair: Felipe Fuentes</p> <p>Vice chair: Connie Conway</p> <p>Members: Tom Ammiano Steven Bradford Charles Calderon Joe Coto Mike Davis Kevin de León Isadore Hall Diane Harkey Jeff Miller Jim Nielsen Chris Norby Nancy Skinner Jose Solorio Tom Torlakson Alberto Torrico</p>	<p>Chair: Warren Furutani</p> <p>Vice chair: n/a</p> <p>Members: Juan Arambula Julia Brownley Paul Cook Kevin Jeffries</p>	<p>Chair: Mike Feuer</p> <p>Vice chair: Van Tran</p> <p>Members: Julia Brownley Noreen Evans Curt Hagman Dave Jones Steve Knight Ted Lieu Bill Monning Pedro Nava</p>	<p>Chair: Tom Ammiano</p> <p>Vice chair: Curt Hagman</p> <p>Members: Jim Beall Danny Gilmore Jerry Hill Anthony Portantino Nancy Skinner</p>

CHIEF JUSTICE: LEGISLATURE MUST RESTORE COURT BUDGETS

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critical funding eliminated from the judicial branch budget in 2009-10; (2) the critical importance of preserving funding intended for the construction and renovation of unsafe courthouses; (3) the need to move forward with technology infrastructure projects that will enhance public safety and provide public access and accountability; and (4) the importance of preserving and protecting the independence of the judicial branch and the constitutional role of the judiciary and the Judicial Council.

In his 15th annual address to a joint session of the Legislature, Chief Justice George acknowledged that the judicial branch must participate in efforts to turn around the state's funding crisis. "The unintended yet inevitable symbolism of 'closed' signs on our courthouses—institutions that embody our nation's most revered democratic ideals—is a graphic indication of the severity of California's economic crisis," George said. He went on to state that although one-day-a-month court closures helped close the short-term fiscal gap, "these statewide closures must not continue into the next fiscal year."

The full text of Chief Justice George's remarks can be found on the California Courts' Website at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/soj022310.htm>

In a departure from the BBC's usual "Day in Sacramento" event held in conjunction with the State of the Judiciary address, BBC members spread their visits throughout the month of February, traveling to the Capitol on successive Tuesdays and Wednesdays for constituent meetings with legislators from their respective regions and with legislative leadership. Most reported that they found legislators supportive, but not overly optimistic that the state's fiscal condition would improve significantly in the near term.

"Most legislators are keenly aware of the need to fully fund trial court operations," said Thomas J. Warwick,

Jr., from San Diego and BBC cochair. "They know that closing courthouses for even one day a month significantly affects their constituents' access to justice, and that courthouses around the state are crumbling and must be replaced. But at the same time, they realize the magnitude of the state's fiscal crisis and can't promise us that the courts' budget can be restored."

On Tuesday, February 16, seven members of the California Commission on Access to Justice, chaired by Third District Court of Appeal Associate Justice Ronald B. Robie, visited 14 legislative offices, adding a discussion of legal services and access to justice issues to the overall messages of support for restoring the judicial branch budget. The next day, the Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley, presiding judge of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County and chair of the Judicial Council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, led a group of 30 presiding judges and other judicial leaders from around the state for 70 appointments with legislative leadership and members whose constituents are served by courts in judges' respective counties.

"The day was productive and informative," Judge O'Malley summarized. "The legislators heard the concerns of the presiding judges across the state regarding the budget, court closures and the need for safe courthouses. In turn, the presiding judges learned of the tough choices the legislators must make. The judges stressed that the courts are committed to helping come up with solutions to assist in the courts' budget for this next fiscal year, to which the legislators responded that they would be open to any helpful ideas."

Over the next several months, judicial branch leadership will continue discussions with legislative leadership and the Governor's administration. For more information about legislative and budget priorities, contact the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121. ■

Pérez Sworn In as New Assembly Speaker

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working with him in his new role,” the Chief Justice said.

Pérez, a native of Los Angeles, was elected in 2008 to represent the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Maywood, Vernon, Huntington Park and portions of the city of Los Angeles. Prior to his election as Speaker, he served as the chair of the Democratic Caucus and served as a member of the appropriations, business and professions, and transportation committees.

In his acceptance remarks, Pérez vowed to foster a renewed spirit of bipartisanship and commitment. “Let me be clear, this is true for my Republican colleagues as well as for Democrats: I am your Speaker, too!” he stated, just before announcing that he would appoint two Republicans to serve as committee chairs—positions typically held by members of the majority party. “As we confront the enormous challenges facing California in the coming year, that is exactly the spirit of bipartisan cooperation and common purpose we need to embrace if we are to succeed.”

In addition to naming job creation and solving the budget crisis as top priorities, Pérez also called for major reforms in how budget deliberations are conducted and decisions made, saying that the budget “will not be written behind closed doors in Big 5 meetings”—referring to meetings between the Governor, Speaker, Senate President pro Tempore, and Republican leaders of the Assembly and Senate—and telling legislators that they, along with members of the public, will be given ample opportunity to participate in the process. He also called for budget hearings and deliberations to be broadcast via the Internet and television where possible.

Pérez concluded his remarks by asking legislators to help him during his Speakership to restore the public’s trust in the Legislature, saying “this is a huge challenge, a complex challenge, an historic challenge, but we are equal to the task. So let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work!” The full text of his remarks can be found on his Website at: <http://asmdc.org/speaker/>. ■

Special Session Produces No Changes to the Judicial Branch Budget

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equipped to capture photos of speeding vehicles. Speeders would face a fine of \$225 for up to 15 miles/hour above the speed limit, and \$325 for speed in excess of 15 miles/hour above the posted speed limit. The administration estimates that the state would receive \$337.9 million in revenue for the trial courts: \$41 million in new revenue to support trial court security and \$296.9 million in General Fund relief.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provided the Legislature with oral testimony regarding the impacts of the ASE proposal on the trial courts. The AOC’s testimony emphasized the following key points:

- The policy issue of whether camera technology is

an appropriate law enforcement tool is outside the constitutional purview of the Judicial Council;

- Successful implementation would require additional funding for the trial courts to support a substantial increase in new ASE-generated workload; and
- The new revenue for court security is critically needed, as security continues to be underfunded.

At the conclusion of the Special Session, the Legislature and Governor enacted \$1.9 billion in solutions. None of the solutions will result in a current year reduction in funding for the judicial branch. However, the package will defer the \$42 million March 2010 General Fund payment for non-payroll trial court expenditures until April 2010. ■

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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AB 2068 (Hill), as amended April 15, 2010. Expungement standards.

Authorizes the court to dismiss the accusatory pleading against a defendant convicted of a misdemeanor and not granted probation, if the court, in its discretion and in the interests of justice, determines that the defendant should be granted this relief.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: No position.

AB 2217 (Fuentes), as amended March 25, 2010. Jurors: electronic communications.

Requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversation about the trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition on conversation applies to all forms of electronic and wireless communication. Requires the officer in charge of a jury to prevent any form of electronic or wireless communication.

Status: In Senate

JC Position: Support as proposed to be amended.

AB 2471 (John A. Pérez), as amended April 27, 2010. Vehicles: identification cards and driver's licenses.

Requires suspension of a business license or permit for six months if a business is found guilty of unlawful possession of a fraudulently obtained identification card or driver's license. Requires the clerk of the court to issue an abstract of

judgment to the agency or department that has issued the license or permit to the business.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: No position.

AB 2499 (Portantino), as amended March 25, 2010. Traffic violator schools: regulation.

Consolidates all traffic violator school programs under the licensing authority of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: Support.

AB 2582 (Adams), as amended March 25, 2010. Infractions: dismissal of charge.

Authorizes the court in specified circumstances or in the court's discretion to set aside a guilty verdict and dismiss the accusatory pleading against a defendant who was convicted of an infraction but not granted probation.

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee

JC Position: No position.

SB 1025 (Harman), as amended April 8, 2010. Courts: California Habeas Corpus Resource Center.

Removes the limitation on the number of attorneys who may be employed by the California Habeas Corpus Resource Center. Also requires the Supreme Court to develop necessary rules and procedures for initiating capital habeas corpus proceedings in the superior court.

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

JC Position: No position yet taken.

SB 1162 (Walters), as amended April 6, 2010. Vehicles: traffic violator schools.

Requires a clerk of the court to collect a nonrefundable fee of \$2 from a person permitted or ordered by the court to attend traffic violator instruction, retain \$1 and transmit \$1 of the fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Requires court-approved traffic violator schools to provide students and the court with proof of completion of the program.

Status: Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

JC Position: No position.

SB 1449 (Leno), as amended April 5, 2010. Marijuana: possession.

Reclassifies from a misdemeanor to an infraction possession of not more than 28.5 grams of marijuana.

Status: Senate Floor

JC Position: Support.

SCA 27 (Harman), as introduced. Death penalty appeals: transfer.

Authorizes the Supreme Court to transfer a case to a court of appeal when a judgment of death has been pronounced and requires the Supreme Court to review the resulting decision of the court of appeal affirming or reversing that judgment. Provides that if the Supreme Court concludes that the decision contains no error affecting the

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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judgment, presents no need to secure uniformity of decision, and does not require resolution of an important question of law, the Supreme Court may summarily affirm the judgment of the court of appeal in an order published in the official reports. If summary affirmance is not appropriate, requires the Supreme Court to hold oral argument and issue a decision in writing with reasons stated, addressing all or part of the court of appeal's decision.

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

JC Position: Support.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AB 1596 (Hayashi), as amended March 23, 2010. Protective orders: emergency protective orders: enforcement priority: sexual assault.

Provides that when two or more protective orders issued pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure, the Family Code, the Penal Code, or the Welfare and Institutions Code involve at least one of the same protected persons, and the same restrained person, and the orders are in conflict, then they are to be enforced in the manner that provides the greatest protection to the protected persons and the greatest restrictions on the restrained person.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: Support.

FAMILY LAW

AB 375 (Nielsen), as amended June 1, 2009. Child custody: child sexual abuse.

Prohibits the use of ex parte proceedings to modify child custody orders when there is a finding that there has been an act of sexual abuse or domestic violence against the child, and the court determines that the act is of recent origin or part of a continuing or escalating pattern, and that the person seeking custody is alleged to have committed a recent act of child sexual abuse or domestic violence and is seeking to gain greater access to the child. This prohibition does not apply if there is a showing of immediate harm to the child or immediate risk that the child will be removed from the State of California.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee
JC Position: No position.

AB 612 (Beall), as amended June 28, 2009. Custody and visitation: nonscientific theories.

Provides that unproven, nonscientific theories, including, but not limited to, alienation theories are not consistent with generally accepted clinical, forensic, scientific, diagnostic, or medical standards. Prohibits a court from relying upon an unproven, unscientific theory and from accepting into evidence any finding provided by an expert witness or court appointed professional who has relied on an unproven, nonscientific theory as a basis for that finding. Provides that the rules of evidence that apply in a criminal proceeding shall apply in

any custody proceeding involving an allegation of physical or sexual abuse against a child.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee
JC Position: Oppose, as amended June 28, 2009.

JUDGES/JUDICIAL OFFICERS

AB 2763 (Committee on Judiciary), as amended March 25, 2010. Judgeships.

Requires the Judicial Council to prepare and submit to the Legislature a Judicial Needs Assessment that revises the time study specifically for family and juvenile law, and thus re-evaluates the overall judicial need. Authorizes the Judicial Council to convert up to an additional 10 subordinate judicial officer positions (SJOs) to judgeships each year, upon vacancy, if the conversion of these additional positions will result in a judge being assigned to a family or juvenile law assignment previously presided over by a subordinate judicial officer.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

JC Position: Support. ■



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Norby Fills 72nd Assembly District Seat

The California State Assembly gained a new member when Republican Chris Norby was elected to fill the 72nd Assembly District seat vacated by the resignation of Michael Duvall. Norby won a special election held on January 12, 2010, with 62.72% of the vote defeating Democrat John MacMurray, who finished with 31.12% of the vote and Green Party candidate Jane Rands who won 6.15% of the total 34,128 votes cast.

The 72nd Assembly District partially covers Orange County and includes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. An Orange County native, Norby, the married father of four children, resides in Fullerton—just a few blocks from his birthplace. He received his undergraduate degree from Occidental College and master's degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Prior to his election to the Legislature, Norby served on the Orange County Board of Supervisors for seven years, representing Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia, Buena Park, and Anaheim. His 1984–2002 term on the Fullerton City Council included three years as Mayor.

Norby has been appointed to serve on the Assembly Committees on Appropriations, Transportation, and Education. Local government fiscal reform will be among his top legislative

priorities.

Assembly Member Norby can be reached at the State Capitol at (916) 319-2072 or by email at Assemblymember.Norby@assembly.ca.gov.



Assembly Member Chris Norby (R-72, Orange County)

In other legislative news, the Assembly 43rd District seat, formerly held by Assembly Member Paul Krekorian, remains vacant. The seat will be filled after a run-off election on June 8, 2010, between businessman Sunder Ramani (R) and attorney Mike Gatto (D). The seat, formerly held by Senator Abel Maldonado (S-15), will be filled by a special election on August 17, 2010. Maldonado was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. ■

News From the AOC

In addition to *The Capitol Connection*, the Administrative Office of the Courts produces several publications reporting on various aspects of court business. Visit these online on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov.