



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

→→→REVISED←←←
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MINUTES OF THE 673rd MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 673rd meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on May 18, 2006, in Room 140 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair
Nelson L. Atkins
Sylvia Scott-Hayes
Andrew Friedman
Ann Jackson
Carol L. Rose

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Clifton Albright, Vice Chair
Lee Kanon Alpert
William J. Galloway
Thomas J. Jeffers
Neal S. Millard

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Heather Aubry, LA City Attorney's Office
Lieutenant George Bush, Los Angeles Police Department
Samuel Dacus, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Michael Karsch, City of Los Angeles
Danette Myers, L. A. County Bar Association
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office
Ramon Quintana, Office of the Public Defender
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Bea Dieringer, LA County District Attorney's Office
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court
Dr. Margaret Little, Superior Court

GUESTS

Greg Drapac, Superior Court
Cynthia Lathon, Superior Court

CALL TO ORDER

Chair CeDillos called the 673rd regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:42 p.m.

Bertrum M. CeDillos
Chair

Clifton W. Albright
Vice Chair

Lee Kanon Alpert
Nelson L. Atkins
Andrew Friedman
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
Thomas J. Jeffers
Neal S. Millard
Carol L. Rose
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Friedman led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair CeDillos reported that he arranged for Gloria Gomez to speak on juries at the August Commission meeting; Mr. William Mitchell to speak in relation to Superior Court budgets in September; and in July, Presiding Judge Michael Nash will speak on the Juvenile Court system. Chair CeDillos also reported that Commissioner Robbi Work has resigned from the Commission to meet the increasing demands of her job. **Chair CeDillos has sent a letter to Supervisor Burke requesting that a scroll be prepared for presentation to Commissioner Work by the Judicial Procedures Commission.**

UPDATE ON RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 1363 (AB 1363) – THE OMNIBUS CONSERVATORSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP REFORM ACT OF 2006

County Counsel is currently in the process of determining the course of action the Board of Supervisors will take regarding AB 1363. Once a determination has been made, County Counsel will notify staff of their findings, and then if necessary, the Commission can submit its resolution in support of AB 1363.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 16TH AND APRIL 20, 2006

On motion of Commissioner Scott-Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Atkins and carried unanimously, the minutes from the meetings of March 16th and April 20th, 2006 were approved.

GUEST SPEAKERS, CYNTHIA LATHAN AND GREGORY DRAPAC, "ISSUES IN CIVIL LITIGATION"

Chair CeDillos welcomed and introduced Gregory Drapac and Cynthia Lathan from the Superior Court. Mr. Drapac is the Administrator of the Case Creation and Courtroom Management Division at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, and Ms. Lathan is manager of the court's Small Claims Division.

Mr. Drapac and Ms. Lathan gave an overview on the Court's Interpreter Services Division, proposed changes to court forms, and the California Rules of the Court, and current initiatives being instituted.

Mr. Drapac manages court interpreters statewide, and works to permanently employ contracted interpreters. The Court spends approximately \$25 million annually to provide this service to the public, and employs over 600 interpreters, speaking more than 100 different languages and dialects. A full-time permanent interpreter can earn about \$69,000 a year with full benefits; however, there is often a shortage of interpreters because only 10% of applicants who take the state certification test actually pass. Currently, non-certified interpreters, many of them family members, have been allowed to interpret on small claims cases.

Other initiatives include the following:

- Updating court forms to incorporate plain language
- Implementing changes to the California Rules of Court
- Modification of various Counsel Forms for uniformity
- Amending the Small Claims Act to allow processing of cases by fax and electronically
- Updating the rules for using Judicial Council forms
- Updating Emergency Protective Orders that reflect recent statutory changes
- Establishing uniform procedures for Small Claims Court notices
- Changes to the Fee Schedule for Civil Filings for uniformity and to more accurately predict revenue
- Training court staff on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to create positive interaction with people with disabilities

In conclusion, Department 89 at Stanley Mosk Court is currently participating in a pilot project implemented last October allowing attorneys to make court appearances by video conference. This service saves attorneys, courts, and clients time and money, while reducing backlog and enhancing customer service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Child Custody Exchange Update

Bea Dieringer reported that the child custody exchange centers at the Temple City and Carson Sheriff's Stations have seen an increase in clients as more judges learn of the centers and refer more parents. The Committee is planning to distribute a press release, and focus on outreach to the Spanish speaking community through media opportunities and a translation of the program brochure.

Update on Child Waiting Rooms

Dr. Margaret Little reported that the six Child Waiting Rooms in the county have served over 5,000 children since opening. The Superior Court is considering establishing additional child waiting rooms in Santa Monica and Van Nuys. Dr. Little will provide Commissioner Jackson with cost estimates for the new projects.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 673rd meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:30 p.m.