



CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION

The Voice of the Judiciary

Dear CJA Members,

I write to you today to address the May 21st memo from Martin Hoshino (Administrative Director, Judicial Council) that announced upcoming revisions to the Assigned Judges Program. CJA leadership has been working on this issue since the memo was released and I want to update members on our progress. I have received and endeavored to respond to numerous emails from members who currently participate in the Assigned Judges Program (AJP), those contemplating retirement, as well as Presiding Judges.

Recognizing the importance of this issue to many of our members, CJA immediately contacted Martin Hoshino as well as Judges Patricia M. Lucas and Gary Nadler, the leaders of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC). I encourage Presiding Judges to address further inquiries to Judge Lucas, Chair of the TCPJAC. We have established an open dialogue and anticipate that further details will be forthcoming.

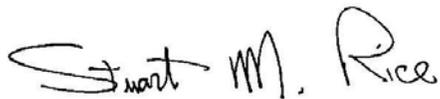
I understand that the goal of the AJP is to remain as before: to ensure that the public has appropriate access to justice by providing courts temporary support. As such, many courts throughout the state have often needed to rely on the AJP to carry out judicial duties on a daily basis. I have been assured that the effective date of July 1 is designed to coincide with the first day of the new fiscal year and that no assigned judge will be terminated on that date. We have been informed that a gradual transition period for the implementation of these changes will occur to limit disruption of ongoing court calendars, a concern that has been raised by many of you.

It is my understanding that the Chief Justice and Mr. Hoshino recognize that some courts are unable to obtain assigned judges from anywhere other than their immediate county and that in certain areas, such as family law, it is difficult to recruit assigned judges. I have been assured that the exceptions built into the revisions of the AJP will

be considered liberally when requested by Presiding Judges in rural, mid-sized and large counties.

CJA will continue working steadfastly through this transition period, keeping members at the forefront in our discussions concerning implementation of the revised program. CJA is listening to your concerns and will keep you apprised as we become aware of any new developments. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your district representative on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart M. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'R'.

Stuart M. Rice
President, California Judges Association
