



MEDIA RELEASE
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Chief Assistant City Attorney Barbara Parker Appointed to State Judicial Council

(Oakland, CA) – Today the Office of the City Attorney announced that the State Bar Board of Governors has appointed Chief Assistant City Attorney Barbara J. Parker to one of four attorney seats on the Judicial Council, a state constitutional agency that provides policy direction to the courts, the Governor, and the Legislature concerning court practice, procedure and administration. John Van De Kamp, president of the State Bar Board of Governors telephoned Ms. Parker to inform her of the Board's decision. Ms. Parker will serve a three-year term from September 15, 2005 – September 14, 2008.

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 Judicial Council includes twenty-one members and is chaired by the California Supreme Court, Chief Justice Ronald George. The State Bar Board of Governors appoints four lawyers to the Council. The Council also includes fourteen judges appointed by the Chief Justice, one member of the Assembly, one member of the Senate and six advisory members, including representatives of the California Judges Association and state court administrative agencies.

"I am honored to be selected," said Chief Assistant City Attorney Barbara Parker. "I am excited about serving and ready to roll up my sleeves and join the other Council members in performing the Council's important work."

Ms. Parker earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Washington and a law degree from Harvard Law School. Ms. Parker brings nearly 30 years of legal experience to the Council. She began her legal career as an associate attorney at the law firm of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro (now Pillsbury Winthrop), working on litigation matters and real estate transactions.

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Ms. Parker left private practice to serve as Chief Deputy Director for the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning. She subsequently served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division of the San Francisco, United States Attorney's Office. She served as counsel in the legal department of Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation and also provided legal advice to the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program.

In 1991, Ms. Parker joined the Oakland City Attorney's Office as an attorney in the Labor/Employment Unit of the Advisory Division. She was promoted to supervise the unit in 1999 and in September of 2000 City Attorney Russo appointed her as Chief Assistant City Attorney of the Advisory Division. As Chief Assistant City Attorney, Ms. Parker oversees 32 employees. The Advisory Division serves as legal counsel to the City Council, the cities many departments, agencies, boards and commissions in all advisory practice areas including, but not limited to, Labor/Employment, Land Use and Planning, Real Estate and Redevelopment, Municipal Finance, Tax, Public Contracting, General Municipal Law and Writs and Writ Appeals .

Candidates for the Judicial Council were evaluated in several areas: keen analytical ability, independent judgment and a big picture perspective on the role of the judicial branch; broad experience in the legal field and an interest in court administration issues; as well as credibility as a leader both within the home county and statewide.

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