



**JUDICIAL
FAIRNESS
COALITION**
A Committee of the California Judges Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION’S JUDICIAL FAIRNESS COALITION
LAUNCHES PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN**

Statewide Association for Judges Provides Resource on Judicial Appointments and Elections

SACRAMENTO (May 2, 2022): The California Judges Association (CJA) Judicial Fairness Coalition (JFC) has launched a public education and engagement campaign, aimed to demystify the third branch of government, abate unfair criticism of judges, and reinforce the importance of an impartial judiciary. As part of the launch, JFC has created a one-page resource on how judges are appointed and elected in the state of California ahead of the June primary election.

The Coalition’s campaign will involve producing, distributing, and curating resources, and will be anchored by an ongoing social media campaign focused on education and engagement. The one-page resource released today on judicial appointments and elections is intended to provide basic information on how judges are selected and to emphasize the importance of voting in judicial elections.

“There is very little information publicly available for voters about the judiciary, and the profound importance of the third branch of government, and its independence,” said Judge Paul Bacigalupo, JFC Co-Chair. “Civic engagement is perhaps more important now than ever before, and we have the ability to serve the public by making information more accessible.”

Founded in 2018, the JFC was created to respond to unfair criticism and false and misleading information about judges and the judiciary and affirm the independence of the courts. The JFC is a statewide coalition of active and retired judges, bar association members, and law school deans and professors.

“Through the campaign, we hope to demystify the judicial branch, how judges reach their decisions, and their roles in our legal system,” said Judge Barbara Kronlund, JFC Co-Chair. “In addition to objective judicial campaign resources, we would gladly respond to inquiries to help foster further understanding of the judiciary.”

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The campaign has been made possible through a generous grant from the California Lawyers Foundation (CLF), the charitable arm and partner of the California Lawyers Association (CLA), California's voluntary statewide bar association. CLF is a statewide foundation "actively developing and supporting projects that improve access to justice for people in need and make the legal system more fair and efficient for everyone; increase diversity in the profession and help educate Californians about the 3rd branch, the role of lawyers and the rule of law."

All of the resources developed as a part of this campaign, including the document on judicial appointments and elections, will be housed on the CJA's website at www.caljudges.org/judicialfairness. The ongoing campaign will focus primarily on social media content development and engagement over the next several months, and further resources will be shared with the public via media outreach and outreach to law-related organizations throughout the state.

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