

Dear CJA Board and Government Relations Committee,

Below are a few recent articles.

Best,

Natalie Sinclair

Daily Journal

Courts cautious about reopening despite governor's new order

Several courts contacted by the Daily Journal said they would let their current guidelines run until they expire.



Gov. Gavin Newsom at a news conference in Oakland, on March 8, 2020. (New York Times News Service)

Courts around California did not rush to announce new reopening policies on Monday after Gov. Gavin Newsom lifted the state's blanket stay-at-home order. But many will begin to conduct more in-person business beginning next week or soon after.

The California Department of Public Health announced Monday morning on its website the orders had been lifted "for all regions."

A hospital surge order remains in effect, imposing a series of new restrictions in areas where intensive care unit capacity drops below 10%.

At his regular noon news conference on Monday, Newsom said the changes rely in part on a four-week projection based on recent trends in case rates.

Though rumors began circulating last week that Newsom would lift his stay-at-home order, court officials

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Daily Journal

Group seeks input on updating judicial bias rule

The move is one of the first by the Judicial Council Work Group to Enhance Administrative Standards Addressing Bias in Court Proceedings, which was formed by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye in November.

A Judicial Council work group began accepting suggestions last week on how to improve Standard of Judicial Administration 10.20, which was last substantively amended more than 20 years ago and recommends that state courts form local committees to tackle bias. The work group will accept early comments until Feb. 12.

Comments can be submitted to standardonbias@jud.ca.gov.

The move is one of the first by the Judicial Council Work Group to Enhance Administrative Standards Addressing Bias in Court Proceedings, which was formed by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye in November.

The state courts have spearheaded a series of efforts in recent years to address discrimination, harassment, and retaliation -- including Rule 10.351, which the Judicial Council adopted in January 2020 and requires each court to update its policies on how court employees can prevent, report, and resolve complaints related to these issues.

But last summer, a group of employment attorneys pointed to a gap in the efforts, which extend protections to court employees but not to attorneys who face discrimination, harassment and retaliation at the hands of judicial officers. These attorneys weren't technically employees of the court, they said, but the court was their workplace, too. And it wasn't until the courts forged recent efforts to address this gap that some said they felt

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