

**The loosening purse strings could allow the Judicial Council to finally put in place changes her Futures Commission laid out a year ago.**



*Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye outlined in a Daily Journal interview how the Judicial Council will leverage the courts' increased budget funding to cover more services and programs.*

On March 19, California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye gave her annual State of the Judiciary speech to lawmakers in Sacramento. For her, the moment was an occasion for celebration.

Three months ago, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed the most generous budget for the courts in many years, which included a significant chunk of discretionary spending the Judicial Council could use as it sees fit. It was perhaps a watershed moment in Cantil-Sakauye's seven-year tenure as chief justice.

She took office in the middle of deep cuts to the court's budget and has always had to contend with other people's priorities for the judicial branch's money. The loosening purse strings could allow Cantil-Sakauye to finally put in place changes her Futures Commission laid out in a report a year ago.

With that in mind, she talked last week with Daily Journal Editor David Houston about her plans for the year, and how the legal community can help with that. The following is a condensed version of that discussion.