



## *California Supreme Court Holds 2010 Outreach Session in Fresno*

The Supreme Court's outreach visit to Fresno on October 5–6, 2010, was the Court's first return visit to a judicial district since the inauguration of its annual outreach program in 2001. On the first visit to Fresno, in 2002, the Court traveled at the invitation of Presiding Justice James A. Ardaiz of the Fifth District Court of Appeal and, on this occasion, the Court's visit marked his retirement.

In the interim, the outreach program — designed to bring the work of the Supreme Court closer to the people and to interest local students in the judicial system — has seen continued growth. During the Court's one-day visit to Fresno in 2002, approximately 200 students took turns listening to oral arguments. This year, the Court's visit included two days of oral argument, and the student audience had grown to 300. In 2002, the justices answered prepared questions from ten high school students, and this year heard questions from fourteen.

The current visit also gave the Supreme Court an opportunity to participate in the growth of judicial administration in Fresno County. The Court heard oral argument for the first time in the Fifth District's award-winning new courthouse, completed in 2007.



*TOP: Herbert I. Levy, associate justice of the Court of Appeal, prepares the students for oral argument. The fourteen student questioners are seated in the front two rows.*

*BOTTOM: The student visitors assemble in the courthouse lobby.*

PHOTOS BY HOWARD K. WATKINS.

The justices also attended the dedication of the B. F. Sisk Courthouse of the Fresno County Superior Court, at which Chief Justice Ronald George joined in cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

A special event of the student outreach program was a twenty-minute press conference held by the Chief Justice for students from Bullard High School in Fresno. Nine students had the opportunity to sit at a conference table with the Chief Justice and pose impromptu questions about law and justice. ★



*TOP: Dedicating the new B. F. Sisk Courthouse of the Fresno County Superior Court (LEFT TO RIGHT) — Tamara Beard, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court, Fresno County; Honorable M. Bruce Smith, Presiding Judge, Superior Court, Fresno County; Ronald Overholt, Chief Deputy Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California.*

*BOTTOM: Chief Justice Ronald M. George (RIGHT) with Associate Justice Marvin R. Baxter (LEFT) and Society Past President James E. Shekoyan.*

*TOP: The new courthouse of the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District.*

*CENTER: The Supreme Court visits the Fifth Appellate District's new George M. Brown Courtroom — Chief Justice Ronald M. George (CENTER) with Associate Justices Joyce L. Kennard (LEFT), Marvin R. Baxter (RIGHT), and (STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT) Carlos R. Moreno, Kathryn Mickle Werdegard, Ming W. Chin, and Carol A. Corrigan.*

*BOTTOM: Chief Justice Ronald M. George speaks at the reception.*

**A VIEW FROM THE BENCH**

The Court was pleased to return to Fresno to celebrate the Fifth District Court of Appeal's beautiful new court facility and to be present for the dedication of the new Fresno County Superior Court building. Fifth District Court of Appeal Administrative Presiding Justice Ardaiz has been a strong supporter of the Supreme Court's outreach program, and the visit provided the Court an opportunity to acknowledge his support and to wish him well on his retirement. It was gratifying for the Court to experience the enthusiasm and attention of the students in attendance at the Court's oral argument session, and we were most appreciative of our gracious reception by the Fresno legal community.

— Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegard, California Supreme Court, and Society board member.