



Chambers of

**RICHARD M. KING**

CHAIR

ALTERNATE DEFENSE STEERING COMMITTEE  
AND SUPERVISING JUDGE

# Superior Court of California County of Orange

700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, California 92701

## Alternate Defense Steering Committee February 9, 2016

In order to insure fairness and transparency in the process of creating new attorney appointment panels within the context of the Alternate Defense Steering Committee, while also insuring efficient service to the court and counsels' clients, the following professional standards were considered by the Alternate Defense Steering Committee members with respect to each attorney who has applied for placement on one of the Primary Justice Center panels, as well as any other appointment list. They are listed in random order. The factors to be considered are:

- 1) Years of relevant practice;
- 2) Trial experience (focusing largely on number and types of trials within the past ten years);
- 3) Professional reputation;
- 4) Availability and response time;
- 5) Collegiality;
- 6) Prior history of service to the court;
- 7) Projected ability to coordinate responsibilities with other counsel on court lists;
- 8) Demonstrated competency re negotiation/settlement process;
- 9) Academic background;
- 10) Overall professional responsibility;
- 11) Sensitivity to professional ethical obligations.

The following parameters were established concerning the operation of each Justice Center Primary and Secondary panels:

- 1) The CJC Primary panel shall include 8 lawyers. The WJC, NJC and HJC Primary panels shall each include 5 lawyers.
- 2) No lawyer should be included on more than one Justice Center Primary panel.
- 3) A Primary Misdemeanor panel shall be created in each Justice Center (no Secondary Misdemeanor panel) with two lawyers on each of these panels.
- 4) All attorney members of each Justice Center's Primary panel must be included in that Primary group's regular weekly rotation and appointment process.
- 5) All appointments made post-information by the Supervising Judge of the Felony Panel or designee in Department C5, will be made utilizing the rotation from the originating Justice Center.
- 6) A countywide Secondary Panel of lawyers approved by Alternate Defense Steering Committee shall be created to provide additional appointed counsel for felony and misdemeanor cases in which any Justice

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Center's Primary panel list is insufficient to provide counsel for all indigent defendants requiring appointed counsel. The Secondary Panel List shall be maintained by Alternate Defense Steering Committee, as supervised and administered by the Supervising Judge of the Felony Trial Courts, and appointments from that Panel list shall be made in a sequential manner.

The following parameters were established concerning the composition of the Homicide and Special Circumstances panels:

- 1) The current two panel structure will be maintained;
- 2) No attorney may serve on both the Murder and Special Circumstances panels. All qualified applicants for the Special Circumstances and Murder panels shall be placed on the approved list.

As to Habeas Corpus representation, one county wide list shall be established including all qualified applicants.

Lastly, the following general operational guidelines are established:

- 1) All panels and appointment lists will be published on the Court's website;
- 2) Membership on each Justice Center Primary panel, and inclusion on any appointment list, shall be reviewed by the Alternate Defense Steering Committee on a regular basis.