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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Chief Justice Accepts Resignation of Justice Scotland from Strategic Evaluation Committee**

### *Work of Committee Will Continue*

San Francisco – Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye today accepted, with regret, the resignation of retired Court of Appeal Justice from the Strategic Evaluation Committee.

“Justice Scotland’s service on the committee has been commendable, and I thank him for it,” the Chief Justice said, adding that the committee’s work will continue under the leadership of two other committee members.

Justice Scotland submitted his resignation Thursday, citing his decision to serve as a member of the legal team representing the leadership of the Legislature in a lawsuit against the State Controller.

“Justice Scotland believes that his new responsibilities in no way would impair the integrity, impartiality, conscientiousness, and diligence he has shown in his work as chair of the committee. I agree,” the Chief Justice said. “But Justice Scotland also believes that a possible appearance of conflict – no matter how remote or unreasonable – may reflect poorly on the important work of the committee, and he believes it warrants his resignation. I respect his judgment on this, and regrettably accept his decision.”

Justice Scotland was named in March to head the committee to conduct an in-depth review of the Administrative Office of the Courts and its organizational structure to promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in providing services to the courts.

The [committee](#) will continue its work under the leadership of Assistant Presiding Judge Charles D. Wachob of the Superior Court of Placer County and Presiding Judge Brian L. McCabe of the Superior Court of Merced County.

The Chief Justice noted that much of the committee’s work has been done and a report to the Judicial Council is expected in the spring.

Judge Wachob added, “On behalf of the committee, we remain confident that the substantial and thorough progress we are making will continue in a timely fashion.”

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*