

Date January 12, 2009	Action Requested For your information
To California Appellate Court-Appointed Counsel	Deadline N/A
From Marcia M. Taylor, Director Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Services	Contact Donna Drummond, Sr. Court Services Analyst 415-865-4249 phone 415-865-4315 fax donna.drummond@jud.ca.gov
Subject Status of Court-Appointed Counsel Payments; Temporary Suspension of Direct Deposit Program	

As you are all aware, to date Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature have been unable to agree on a plan to address the state's current fiscal problems. The Office of the State Controller has advised us that its projections indicate California may have insufficient cash funds to meet necessary 2008–2009 expenditures as early as February 1, 2009.

Registered warrants. In the event that there is no resolution to this fiscal stalemate by the end of the month, the State Controller may begin issuing registered warrants, commonly referred to as IOUs, as early as February 1. We will continue to approve and process claims for compensation as usual, and the registered warrants should be issued within the same time frame as checks and direct deposit transfers are issued now. In addition, the Controller is meeting with banks and other financial institutions to determine which institutions will honor the registered warrants. As soon as we have further information on this issue, we will let you know.

Temporary suspension of direct deposits. Because the Controller cannot register any payments via its direct deposit program, the direct deposits will be put on hold until there is a resolution of a final budget. Instead, you will receive your registered warrant through the mail at the address that is currently on file with this office.

During this period, we ask that you do not change your banking information if you have direct deposit. Once the current crisis is resolved we will reinstate direct deposit payments through your current bank unless you advise us otherwise at that time.

We know that if this budget impasse continues, receipt of registered warrants may create a severe hardship for you and your families. Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Administrative Director of the Courts, William C. Vickrey, and other staff at the Administrative Office of the Courts are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that payments to court-appointed counsel will continue on a timely basis. They continue to participate in frequent meetings with

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the Governor and his executive staff and members of the Legislature in an attempt to facilitate resolution of this situation.

We thank you for your dedicated public service benefiting your clients and the California justice system.

cc: Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California
Mr. William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts
Members of the Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Advisory Committee
Executive Directors, Appellate Projects