



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-092

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

Court Facilities: Naming Request for New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse in Sunnyvale

Judicial Council Report Details

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Effective Date

July 17, 2026

Recommended by

Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair

Hon. Eric J. Wersching, Vice-Chair

Date of Report

June 9, 2026

Report Type

Action Required

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Sixth Appellate District's request to name the new Court of Appeal courthouse in the city of Sunnyvale. This approval would establish the facility's official name in advance of construction, which is scheduled to begin in summer 2026 and conclude in fall 2028.

Recommendation

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 17, 2026, approve the name "California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District" for the new courthouse in Sunnyvale.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The council has taken no previous action on this courthouse naming request. In July 2023, the council adopted its revised *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A).

Analysis/Rationale

Construction of the Court of Appeal—New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse project is scheduled to begin in summer 2026 in the city of Sunnyvale. The fully funded capital project received authorization in the Budget Act of 2023 (fiscal year (FY) 2023–24) for its performance criteria phase and in the Budget Act of 2024 (FY 2024–25) for its design-build phase, which includes construction. The new courthouse will provide a permanent home for the Sixth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal, which since 1984 has adjudicated cases out of leased space in a commercial office building in downtown San Jose in Santa Clara County. The court handles cases from the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz, deciding over 900 appeals annually in addition to disposing of 500 writ petitions. Clerk/Executive Officer Baltazar Vazquez submitted the proposed name for this new courthouse (see Attachment A) based on the naming policy’s location and case type category.

The completion of the courthouse is expected in fall 2028. Therefore, and to assist this project with the design and future fabrication of its signage based on its schedule, the Court of Appeal asks that it be allowed to proceed with the name as proposed.

Policy implications

Per the council’s naming policy, requests involving names of court facilities based on location and case type require evaluation by the committee, with a recommendation directly to the council. The committee reviewed the naming request against the naming standard by location and case type—under section III.B.2.a of the council’s *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A)—and found that it complies with all requirements.

Comments

On May 29, 2026, the committee held a public meeting for the evaluation of the naming request, which resulted in a unanimous vote that the council approve the request. The naming request was posted in advance for public comment on May 26, 2026, and no public comments were received.

Alternatives considered

Because of the naming request’s precise compliance with the council’s naming policy, no alternatives to the recommended action were considered.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The costs of designing and fabricating the signage for the new Sixth Appellate District courthouse in Sunnyvale will be paid from the project’s capital-outlay budget.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Courthouse naming request from Baltazar Vazquez, Clerk/Executive Officer, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District, April 1, 2026
2. Link A: [Courthouse Naming Policy](#) (revised July 21, 2023)



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Court of Appeal
SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT
333 WEST SANTA CLARA STREET, SUITE 1060
SAN JOSE, CA 95113

BALTAZAR VAZQUEZ
Clerk/Executive Officer
PHONE
(408) 277-1004
WEBSITE
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April 1, 2026

Hon. Brad R. Hill
Administrative Presiding Justice
Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District
Chair Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Dear Justice Hill,

Pursuant to the Courthouse Naming Policy adopted by the Judicial Council and revised July 21, 2023, I respectfully submit this naming request for the newly constructed courthouse serving the Court of Appeal Sixth Appellate District. Under Section C.1 of the policy, the Clerk/Executive Officer is expressly authorized to submit courthouse naming requests.

Proposed Courthouse Name:

- *California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District*

This request is submitted under Naming Preference 1, which is the Judicial Council's preferred naming convention and is the most commonly used for both trial and appellate court facilities. This category requires that courthouse names include "Court of Appeal" and "California," along with the appropriate district designation.

The proposed name:

- Conforms to the policy's required structure for appellate courthouse names
- Clearly communicates the courthouse's location and judicial function
- Aids court users and the public in identifying the court's jurisdiction and purpose

Naming the facility *California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District* aligns with the Judicial Council's goal of enhancing public understanding and accessibility of court facilities. The name is consistent with the policy's examples for appellate courthouse naming formats and maintains uniformity with other designated statewide appellate facilities.

We will provide any additional materials needed for your review, including:

- Project details and facility overview
- Architectural or signage compliance information under Section D of the policy
- Any other documentation necessary for evaluation and recommendation

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if any further information or materials are needed.

Respectfully,



Baltazar Vazquez
Clerk/Executive Officer
Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District
408-494-2559

cc: Mary J. Greenwood, Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District
Kim Bobic, Senior Project Manager, Judicial Council of California
Chris Magnusson, Facilities Supervisor, Judicial Council of California