

7/19/11

Dear Members:

Below is a link to a television news report that ran yesterday on KCRA, Sacramento. Click here to access the video. (Please be patient, the video takes approximately 15 seconds or so to load). Alliance Director and newest member of the Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency, Judge Tia Fisher, is featured.

<http://www.kcra.com/video/28592019/detail.html>

The story deals with the allegations of a former AOC employee who worked in the AOC Facility Program. He alleges that due to AOC mismanagement of courthouse maintenance funds, the AOC tapped money specifically appropriated by the legislature for capital projects and used it instead for routine maintenance.

Facility Modification funding is appropriated by the legislature from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (SCFCF) and "1407" funds - referenced by the acronym ICNA (The Immediate and Critical Needs Account). According to Judicial Council policy, AOC staff can authorize up to \$15,000 for each individual project if it is designated as a high priority item without advance approval by the Trial Court Facility Modification Working Group. Facility Modification Methodology as approved by the Judicial Council (per statutory mandate) and reported to the Legislature sets forth a definition of "Facility Modification" that specifically excludes routine repair and maintenance, regardless of the priority. Neither the emergency nature of the facility project nor the cost of the project is determinative of whether a project should be funded out of the maintenance fund or the capital fund, i.e. the Facility Modification Fund.

We believe another report will air tonight. We will keep you informed as best we can.

In addition, we have attached a link to a report about the crisis facing the San Francisco Superior Court. The report includes an interview of San Francisco Presiding Judge Katherine Feinstein, and comments from ACJ member Kay Tsenin. The story can be accessed at

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san_francisco&id=8256751

Thank you for your continued support.

Alliance of California Judges