

PRESS RELEASE
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FROM: CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF
JUSTICE ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING ON USE OF INFORMANT
TESTIMONY TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 IN
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, created by the California State Senate to examine the causes of wrongful convictions and make recommendations and proposals to further insure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair and accurate, announced that it will hold a public hearing to address the issues surrounding the use of informant testimony in California criminal trials. The hearing will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, at the County Board Chambers for San Mateo County, Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, Redwood City, California. The Commission issued a list of six questions to focus its inquiry. Among the experts invited to address the Commission are Professor Ellen Yaroshevsky, Clinical Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Jacob Burns Ethics Center at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York; Gigi Gordon, Director of the Post Conviction Assistance Center established by Los Angeles County in the wake of the Ramparts Police Scandal; and John Spillane, Chief Assistant District Attorney for Los Angeles County.

This will be the third public hearing convened by the Commission. Prior hearings addressed the problems surrounding eyewitness misidentification and false confessions, which were addressed in interim reports issued by the Commission earlier this year. These reports can be viewed at the Commission's website, www.ccfaj.org.