

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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(representing
Jerry Brown)
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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 ISSUES REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUNDING
FOR DEFENSE SERVICES IN 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, released its ninth report and recommendation today, addressing the problems of funding for indigent defense services in California. The Commission made two recommendations, one addressed to the legislature to require that

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flat-fee contracts for defense services be required to separately reimburse essential investigative and support services, and one addressed to the California State Bar Association, to reconvene its Commission on the Delivery of Legal Services to the Indigent Accused to make recommendations regarding the adequacy of funding for defense services which meet acceptable standards of competent representation.

The Commission recommendations gained the full support of all twenty-two members of the Commission. The Commission is chaired by former California Attorney General John Van de Kamp, and includes a broad spectrum of prosecution, defense, police and victim representatives.

The Commission conducted a public hearing addressing these issues at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles on July 11, 2007. The Commission heard testimony and received written responses to focus questions from organizations representing prosecutors, public

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defenders, criminal defense attorneys and judges, as well as individuals engaged in these roles.

The Commission will continue its deliberations, preparing a forthcoming report related to the administration of the death penalty in California. The Commission is scheduled to issue its final report in June, 2008.