

**Introduced by Senators Corbett and Steinberg
(Coauthor: Senator Harman)**

August 31, 2010

Senate Resolution No. 53—Relative to Chief Justice Ronald M. George Justice Center.

1 WHEREAS, Ronald M. George has distinguished himself as
2 an exceptional Chief Justice of California, responsible for achieving
3 unprecedented improvements in the administration of justice in
4 our state, and is acknowledged as a jurist dedicated to the rule of
5 law, intellectual rigor, impartiality, integrity, and judicial
6 excellence in all its forms; and

7 WHEREAS, Since assuming office as California’s 27th Chief
8 Justice in 1996, Ronald M. George has provided visionary,
9 inspirational, and collaborative leadership that has been pivotal in
10 the transformation of California’s court system into a truly
11 statewide system with the unifying goal of equal access to fair and
12 consistent justice for all in every venue in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Justice George worked tirelessly with the
14 Legislature, and successive Governors, as well as within the
15 judicial branch, to maintain strong and cooperative working
16 relationships that were essential to accomplishing the reforms that
17 were central to the recognition and operation of our state judiciary.
18 These efforts culminated in historic enactments resulting in state
19 funding for the trial courts the unification of 220 municipal and
20 superior courts into 58 trial courts, one in each county, and the
21 transfer of California’s court facilities from county to state
22 ownership under the management of the judicial branch; and

23 WHEREAS, Chief Justice George has fought to advance and
24 protect full and equal access to a fair and impartial justice system

1 by promoting statewide programs to serve the needs of all
2 Californians, including those whose access may be limited by
3 language, disability, cultural unfamiliarity, or a lack of resources
4 to employ counsel. He has been a consistent voice for the
5 unrepresented and for the fundamental importance of judicial
6 impartiality and independence from inappropriate influences; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Justice George has been a driving force
8 behind myriad branchwide initiatives, including self-help programs,
9 pro bono services, education in fairness and cultural competency
10 for judges and court staff, public funding for legal services,
11 interpreter services, one-day or one-trial jury service, and plain
12 English jury instructions. He has worked to promote the fair and
13 respectful treatment of all, thereby increasing not only access to
14 justice, but also the public's respect for the operation and integrity
15 of the judicial branch of government; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the
17 Senate, in anticipation of his retirement effective January 3, 2011,
18 hereby designates the Civic Center Complex, comprised of the
19 Earl Warren Building and the Hiram W. Johnson State Office
20 Building, located at the Civic Center Plaza in the City and County
21 of San Francisco, as the Ronald M. George Justice Center, while
22 maintaining the existing names of the buildings, in deep and lasting
23 honor to the extraordinary and exemplary service of Chief Justice
24 Ronald M. George as California's 27th Chief Justice; and be it
25 further

26 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.