

## **SUMMARY**

Chief Justice Ronald M. George  
Supreme Court of California  
September 20, 2005

### **Canons 1 & 2**

Chief Justice George addresses the issue of self-represented or pro se litigants in the courtroom. He relates that the instances of unrepresented litigants in California has increased and describes steps taken to assure fairness for the litigants and a consistent approach for judges to follow when dealing with such a situation in the California Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants, that grew out of a taskforce established by the California Judicial Council. The Chief Justice emphasized that both appropriate dealings with self-represented litigants and public trust and confidence in the courts require attention or we risk alienating a large segment of the public ultimately weakening participation in the justice system and public support for the courts. He urged the Commission to consider making appropriate changes to Canons 1 and 2, and offered the support and insight of the California Courts.