

The Domino Effect

Judicial Control of Legal Services



A Report to the
California Supreme Court
on the Code of Judicial Ethics

Part Three: Exhibits

Trilogy on Legal Services

Submitted by:





Part Three of the Trilogy on Legal Services looks at methods of providing legal services to indigents that do not involve judges operating the programs. There are models in Oregon and Massachusetts that can provide guidance to the California Supreme Court as it considers a new canon that prohibits judges from controlling or directing legal services programs.

Several alternative methods are already being used in Los Angeles in the mental health division, juvenile dependency division, juvenile delinquency division, and criminal division. The judicial branch should focus on judging cases, not coaching and directing the type of legal services that attorneys deliver to clients who appear before the judges or their courts. It is not necessary for a judge or a court to operate a legal services program. Other options are available.

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