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"Language Barriers to Justice" Forum on April 24

EVENT: Language Barriers to Justice in California, a forum-style discussion by five distinguished California judges. The discussion will be based on a report recently issued by the California Commission on Access to Justice, which found that lack of funding and qualified interpreters limits access to justice for nearly 7 million Californians who need language assistance in the courts. The report points out that Californians speak more than 220 languages, and more than 40 percent of the population speaks a language other than English in the home. The goal of this forum is to focus attention on this challenging situation. The event is presented by the California Commission on Access to Justice and the Chapman University School of Law.

PRESENTERS: The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Jr., United States District Court, Central District of California; The Honorable Lance A. Ito, Los Angeles County Superior Court; The Honorable Carlos R. Moreno, Supreme Court of California; The Honorable Nho T. Nguyen, Orange County Superior Court; The Honorable Kathleen E. O'Leary, California Court of Appeal

Moderators: Joseph L. Chairez, Vice Chair of the Language Access Committee of the California Commission on Access to Justice, and Ken Babcock, Executive Director of the Public Law Center in Santa Ana.

DATE: Monday, April 24, 2006 at 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall, Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, Calif.

ADMISSION: Free and open to the public.

MORE INFORMATION: The public can call (714) 628-2626.

BACKGROUND: The California Commission on Access to Justice is a 24-member body of lawyers, judges, and academic, business, labor and community leaders whose mandate is to explore ways to improve access to civil justice for Californians living on low and moderate incomes. The commission was instrumental in establishing the \$10 million Equal Access Fund for civil legal services to the indigent, and works closely with the State Bar and Judicial Council to improve access to the courts.