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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 18, 2022

NEW ASBESTOS GENERAL ORDER ADVANCES THE COURT'S LONG-ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MASS TORT ASBESTOS LITIGATION

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today announced a new [General Asbestos Litigation Case Management Order \(Asbestos CMO\)](#) for Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding 4674—LAOSD Asbestos Cases. The new Asbestos CMO places in one document orders that were contained in more than 50 such orders promulgated over the past 30 years.

“For more than 40 years, the Court has led the way nationally in managing mass tort asbestos litigation,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “With the leadership of dedicated judicial officers and a highly capable plaintiff and defense bar, the Court has issued more than 50 General Orders and instituted policies and procedures designed to meet the profound and unique challenges of asbestos litigation. This new order will further enhance the Court’s commitment to provide prompt and predictable litigation outcomes whether by motion, trial or settlement.”

The [new Asbestos CMO](#) became effective July 8, 2022, and is available on the [Court’s website](#).

JCCP 4674 involves all lawsuits filed in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties

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ASBESTOS CMO

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asserting claims for personal injury, loss of consortium or wrongful death due to alleged injurious exposure to asbestos containing substances and products. It does not include claims for alleged asbestos-related property damage. These cases are assigned to Dept. 15 at the Spring Street Courthouse, 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles.

Presiding Judge Taylor thanked Judge Lawrence P. Riff, who was previously assigned as the Coordination Trial Judge in Dept. 15, for his work in drafting the updated order.

“Judge Riff, working with Administrative Assistant Supervising Judge of the Complex Civil Litigation Program David S. Cunningham III and Judge Stuart M. Rice – both of whom earlier presided in Dept. 15 – worked with experienced plaintiff and defense asbestos counsel to streamline and update the orders to effectively manage and handle this body of litigation,” Presiding Judge Taylor said.

Judge David J. Cowan, Supervising Judge of the Civil Division, said, “An updated Asbestos CMO has long been an important goal of mine to increase efficiencies in this department given the extraordinary commitment of resources if they go to trial. I, too, thank Judges Cunningham, Rice and Riff for their work.”

Judge Laura A. Seigle is currently the assigned Coordination Trial Judge in Dept. 15.

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