

New Chief Justice Sworn In – CCN Transcript – 12/6/10

More than 8-and-a-half million Californians cast ballots in the November 2nd general election. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's nominee for Chief Justice of California was on that ballot. Citizens were asked for a yes or no vote. Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye was confirmed by a wide margin. A few days later, retiring Chief Justice Ronald George congratulated voters for making the right choice.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California *"The governor selected and the voters have confirmed not only a fine candidate but in my view the ideal person to lead our state court system."*

And on December 3rd, 2010, dignitaries, family, friends and colleagues crowded into the rotunda of the State Capitol for a ceremonial "swearing in" event. The California Channel broadcast the ceremony live.

Chief Justice George reminded everyone that Justice Cantil-Sakauye will be filling three roles: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, chair of the Judicial Council, and Chief Justice of the state of California. She'll head the third branch of government with more than 1700 judicial positions, 21,000 court employees, and an almost 4 billion dollar budget.

The Governor said the Chief Justice-Elect is a living example of the American dream.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger *"Today is an historic and proud day for California. I searched for someone with strong experience and unimpeachable integrity; someone who possesses a firm respect for the constitution and an unwavering commitment to justice. One individual stood above the rest, and that is the woman who is standing right by my side here, Tani Cantil-Sakauye."*

Her husband and two children then joined her in the spotlight for the administration of the solemn oath of office. Thanks to her impressive judicial scholarship and her distinguished public service background, the new chief justice begins her tenure with confidence.

Chief Justice-Elect Tani Cantil-Sakauye *"I am fully aware of the monumental, indescribable challenge ahead of me. I also am aware that I am prepared to happily dedicate myself to this task. But I will bring with me to that task the strength of my family, the kindness and humor of my friends, and the wisdom and experience of my brethren and colleagues I take comfort in knowing that the governor of this great state, and the chief justice of this great state, have faith in my ability to figure it out and to execute it. And I will, thank goodness, with the help of all you good people. Thank you very much."*

The Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye takes office as the 28th Chief Justice of California on January 3rd, 2011.

I'm Leanne Kozak reporting in Sacramento for California Courts News.///