

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

July 1909 “The sturdy struggle of the National Council of Industrial Defense against the insidious methods of rabid labor unionites, was graphically described by James W. Van Cleave, of the association at Symphony Hall last night... The address was thoroughly American, permeated with sentiments of high patriotism. Unionism was attacked for its methods of seeking class privileges, in its disregard of law, its attempts of coercion and its efforts to enact unfair legislation. ... ‘I honestly believe’ said Mr. Van Cleave, ‘Los Angeles would not be the greatest city on the coast if it were not for the Los Angeles Times, the greatest newspaper in the country. It has the greatest editor in the country – I refer to General Otis.’ ... ‘Like the Los Angeles newspaper, I am fighting on the right to conduct our business as we see fit. I have never recognized the right of any organization to dictate what pay I shall give my men, what hours shall constitute a day’s work, or whom I shall employ.’” Los Angeles Times (July 10, 1909) p. II7

1909 “The Examiner got a dose of its own from Fennesey last night when thirty five of its employees struck on Tom’s account. The strikers are linotype operators, advertisement setters and proof readers, all members of the Typographical Union which Tom Fennesey is the local overload. The humor of the situation lies in the fact that Fennesey was the real father of the Los Angeles Examiner. He promoted the movement in the Typographical Union that resulted in giving Hearst a subsidy of \$30,000 to start a newspaper here to ‘down the Times.’ ... For twenty years Tom has been chief trouble-bubbler in printer circles in this city; and when he got full swing in the Examiner office, trouble started there with little delay.... Tom has been ‘downing the Times’ for these twenty years – and this is the furthest he has gone.” Los Angeles Times (November 27, 1909) p. II3

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Analysis of the Outcomes of the San Francisco Community Justice Court. By Melissa Sills, University of California, Berkeley. (The San Francisco Public Defender's Office, San Francisco, California) June 17, 2009. 7 p.

Full text at: <http://sfpublicdefender.org/files/2009/06/cjc-report-by-m-sills.pdf>

["More than half of the cases brought to San Francisco's new Community Justice Center (CJC) -- the Tenderloin court that prosecutes the low-level crimes that plague the neighborhood -- are discharged, including more than 90 percent of the cases involving sleeping outside, blocking sidewalks and creating a public nuisance. Opponents of the CJC say it is further proof the court is an expensive waste of time. The court's supporters, though, say those being cited for low-level crimes are

accessing social services through the court even if their cases are discharged -- which wouldn't happen in the traditional court system.... Sills said it's not clear yet if the court is succeeding." San Francisco Chronicle (June 25, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-20-3843]

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Indigent Representation: A Growing National Crisis. By Erik Luna, Washington and Lee University School of Law. (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) June 4, 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/testimony/ct-el-20090604.html>

["It is problematic that the impoverished may be convicted without counsel, their names sullied and future opportunities jeopardized. But fidelity to the U.S. Constitution does not begin and end with the Bill of Rights. Other constitutional values, like federalism, not only ensure limited government but also provide structural protection of liberty by preventing the concentration of power in either state or federal government.... I will briefly discuss some of my concerns regarding the call for federal involvement in the state criminal defense function.... In practice, the states have brought any crisis upon themselves through, inter alia, overcriminalization -- abusing the law's supreme force by enacting dubious criminal provisions and excessive punishments, and overloading the system with arrests and prosecutions of questionable value."][Request #S09-20-3782]

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MENTAL ILLNESS

Law Enforcement Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy and Practice. By Melissa Reuland and others, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://consensusproject.org/downloads/le-research.pdf>

["The complex nature of law enforcement responses to people with mental illnesses has become an issue of national concern. These calls for service are often time-consuming and difficult to resolve, and can result in tragic injuries or deaths. Policymakers, community leaders, and the public are demanding better outcomes from these encounters.... However, policymakers generally implement these programs without the benefit of research and data documenting the scope and nature of the problem in their community, the weakness of past response models, and the relative importance of specific program features. To ensure law enforcement policies and practices related to people with mental illnesses are data driven and well-informed, this guide summarizes the available research on law enforcement encounters with people with mental illnesses."][Request #S09-20-3780]

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PROBATION

Achieving Better Outcomes For Adult Probation. By Paul Golaszewski and Brian Brown, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) May 29, 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/crim/Probation/probation_052909.pdf

["County probation departments in California supervise roughly 350,000 adult offenders in their community.... We find that many county probation departments are not operating according to the best practices identified by experts and are underperforming in key outcome measures. We also find that the current funding model for probation provides an unintended incentive for local agencies to revoke probation failures to state prison instead of utilizing alternative community-based sanctions.... We recommend that the Legislature create a new program that would provide financial incentives for county probation departments to reduce their revocations to state prison. The program would be funded from a portion of the savings to the state that would result from a reduction in the number of probationers entering the state correctional system."][Request #S09-20-3746]

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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Metro Monitor: Tracking Economic Recession and Recovery in America's 100 Largest Metropolitan Areas. By Alan Berube and others, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2009. 21 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/06_metro_monitor/06_metro_monitor.pdf

["A report evaluating the economic performance of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan markets paints a broad-brush profile of fiscal stagnation in Sacramento, the Central Valley and the state as a whole.... A gloomy mix of high unemployment, declining gross metropolitan product and plunging home values lumped California and Florida communities at the bottom of the heap.... Fresno, Modesto and Stockton ranked 90th, 93rd and 98th, respectively, in the study. Riverside's 81st ranking, Los Angeles' 84th and Oxnard's No. 87 gave California seven of the weakest-performing markets in the United States. Berube said California's short-term outlook shows few positive signs: 'I wouldn't expect there to be a lot of green shoots in the data we're looking at.'" Sacramento Bee (June 17, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-20-3797]

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development: The Local Perspective. By Max Neiman and Daniel Krimm, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) May 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=787>

["Since Proposition 13 in 1978 restricted property tax income, California's local governments have increased their economic development activities, especially in the areas of land development and retail sales. Such measures have provoked criticism, but local officials say they have few alternatives. This paper presents a detailed survey of local economic development policies and activities. It includes assessments of their successes and failures by local officials. The results show that significant barriers to local economic activity exist, among them an inadequate state transportation infrastructure, high energy costs, and lack of an appropriately trained workforce."]

[Request #S09-20-3794]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Internet Is Not Neutral (and No Law Can Make It So). By Steven Titch, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) May 2009. 39 p.

Full text at: <http://reason.org/files/d4adaa933bc0230b879323cbc4b164ff.pdf>

["A new study finds net neutrality would stifle the very innovation that has allowed the Web to grow so quickly and become such a powerful, integral part of our lives. The study says to get the most out of the Internet we should promote competition, not neutrality. Network neutrality proponents fear that companies will risk alienating their customers by blocking websites, directing traffic only to powerful corporate Websites, and charge prices that drive bloggers and casual Internet users out of the market. But this speculation is unfounded and doesn't reflect market realities that companies must fight to keep their customers by delivering the services (and Websites) that they want at prices they can afford. Net neutrality would actually punish companies that seek to improve or optimize their networks or Internet offerings." Reason Foundation press release (May 28, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-20-3723]

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MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Manufacturing 2.0: A More Prosperous California. By Perry Wong and others, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) June 2009.

["The state lost 79,000 manufacturing jobs between 2003 and 2007, while seven other states... gained 62,000. The report blames the state's onerous regulations and high taxes in particular for pushing businesses elsewhere. 'The picture is not pretty,' said Perry Wong, of the Milken Institute, which received funding from the California Manufacturing and Technology Association for the study. The state is shedding manufacturing jobs at a faster pace than the nation as a whole. States such as Arizona, Nevada and Oregon saw an increase in manufacturing employment in 2003.... Not everybody agrees with the report's conclusion. Christopher Thornberg of Beacon Economics said manufacturing output has been as high as ever in the state and that there's no evidence that jobs are going to other states." Los Angeles Times (June 23, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-20-3849]

Report. 96 p.

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/CAManufacturing.pdf>

Executive Summary. 4 p.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/CAManufacturing_ES.pdf

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EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Long-Run Economic Effects of Early Childhood Programs on Adult Earnings. By Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Columbia University, and others. (Partnership for America's Economic Success, Washington, DC) February 2009. 34 p.

Full text at:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20090504_LongRunAdultEarningsReport.pdf

["Few studies have examined how participants in early childhood interventions fare as adults.... In this report we describe a way to link improvements in aspects of children's early health, achievement, and behavior to improved labor market outcomes when they become adults. We apply the same method to link improvements in the parenting children receive with their success in the labor market as adults. Our results suggest that investments in early childhood that improve these aspects of development will likely have important payoffs. However, the magnitude of these payoffs is strongly dependent on the extent to which early program effects are maintained over time."][Request #S09-20-3857]

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READING

Understanding Reading First: What We Know, What We Don't, and What's Next. By Corinne Herlihy and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) June 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/518/policybrief.pdf>

["In 2008, the Institute of Education Sciences published research findings on Reading First, a centerpiece of the No Child Left Behind Act that provided \$1 billion per year to help all children read at or above grade level by the end of third grade. The findings were interpreted by many in the media and the policy community as saying that Reading First did not work. Although the story is more nuanced than that, funding for the program was eliminated in the fiscal year 2009.... This policy brief describes what Reading First was, sets the context in which it was implemented and the studies were conducted, summarizes the findings, and discusses the implications both for federal and state policy and for future research in the teaching of early reading."]

[Request #S09-20-3858]

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

Raids on Workers: Destroying Our Rights. By the National Commission on ICE Misconduct and Violations of 4th Amendment Rights. (The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Washington, DC) June 2009. 84 p.

Full text at: [Raids on Workers](#)

["A national commission blasted the federal government for its tactics in a series of workplace immigration raids. It said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents had violated workers' rights and traumatized communities. The report described the 2006 Swift raids in which thousands of workers -- most of them U.S. citizens or legal immigrants -- were held by heavily armed ICE agents for up to eight hours without food, water or the opportunity to use a bathroom or a telephone.... Joseph Hansen, the president of the food and commercial workers' union, emphasized that he was not opposed to workplace immigration enforcement and commended ICE for its more targeted approach at a seventh Swift plant where agents asked management to produce specific individuals suspected of being undocumented immigrants." San Francisco Chronicle (June 19, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-20-3844]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

High Risk: The California State Auditor Has Designated Electricity Production and Delivery as a High-Risk Issue. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 50 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-602.pdf>

["Since the energy crisis of 2000 and 2001, the electricity sector has continued to evolve. In fact, industry observers suggest that the actions the State has taken have decreased the risk of another energy crisis. However, the State and other market participants continue to work to resolve issues and to further refine the actions taken to alleviate the earlier energy crisis. In addition, significant new issues and challenges in the electricity sector have the potential to influence the supply of electricity, its transmission, and consumer rates.... Consequently, we believe that our list of high-risk issues should include energy concerns -- and, more specifically, the areas related to supplying electricity to California's citizens."] [Request #S09-20-3862]

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Wind and Solar Electricity: Challenges and Opportunities. By Paul Komor, University of Colorado, Boulder. (Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Arlington, Virginia) June 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/wind-solar-electricity-report.pdf>

["Harnessing and delivering enough wind power to make it a significant source of energy in the U.S. may raise its cost by 20 percent. Building transmission lines would cost as much as \$4 billion a year, and managing its variability would add further to its price. Prices would still be competitive with other energy sources if the U.S. approves legislation to limit greenhouse gases. With greenhouse-gas curbs in place, power from wind would be 'more expensive than that from natural gas, but in many cases, still less expensive than that from new nuclear or coal with carbon capture and storage.'... Wind energy now costs between 9 and 12 cents per kilowatt hour, solar power costs between 24 cents and 59 cents, and natural gas ranges from 5 to 10 cents, the report says." Los Angeles Times (June 24, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-20-3863]

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SOLAR POWER

California Solar Initiative: Annual Program Assessment. By Melicia Charles and others, California Public Utilities Commission. (The Commission, San Francisco, California) June 30, 2009. 95 p.

Full text at: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/GRAPHICS/103079.PDF>

["The bad economy slowed the growth of California's solar-power sector in the first half of the year, but the industry appears to be rebounding.... New solar-power capacity nearly doubled from 2007 to 2008, with 156 megawatts installed last year in areas served by the state's largest utilities. But after peaking in January, the monthly rate of installations dropped sharply, according to PUC figures. While the industry's year-over-year sales growth stayed positive through the spring, it was a disappointing dip for a sector that had been expanding rapidly.... The sector should get a lift from economic stimulus programs expected to roll out later in the year.... The report concluded that the state is on track to meet the 2016 goal, assuming the industry returns to at least a modest rate of growth in coming years." Sacramento Bee (July 2, 2009) B8.][Request #S09-20-3860]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

GREEN HOUSE GASES

California State Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Standards; Notice of Decision Granting a Waiver of Clean Air Act Preemption for California's 2009 and Subsequent Model Year Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for New Motor Vehicles. By the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. IN: Federal Register, vol. 74, no. 129 (July 8, 2009) pp. 32744-32784.

["The Environmental Protection Agency granted California's request to impose tough restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks -- reversing the Bush administration's position and opening the way for the state to take the lead on global-warming policy. California developed the standards in 2004 but was barred from implementing them. EPA officials say granting California the waiver from federal standards gives the state wide latitude to promulgate stricter rules, restoring a 40-year interpretation of the Clean Air Act.... In the future, California could petition the EPA to set even stricter emissions standards, which probably would be granted on the legal grounds that the administration reaffirmed in granting this request." Los Angeles Times (June 30, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-20-3870]
Federal Register. 42 p.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-15943.pdf>

EPA Press Release. 1 p.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceac8525735900400c27/5e448236de5fb369852575e500568e1b!OpenDocument>

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LAND USE

Communities Tackle Global Warming: A Guide to California's SB 375. By Tom Adams, California League of Conservation Voters, and others. (Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, New York) June 2009. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/sb375/files/sb375.pdf>

["California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, or SB 375, is the nation's first legislation to link transportation and land use planning with global warming. SB 375 is an important step toward a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous California. This groundbreaking measure shows us that where we live and how we get to work, go about our daily business, and take our kids to school matters a great deal in the fight against climate change. In fact, household transportation in California is the single-largest and the fastest-growing source of global warming pollution in the state. Locating housing closer to jobs and transportation choices and creating walkable communities can reduce commute times and cut millions of tons of global warming pollution, while improving quality of life."]

[Request #S09-20-3865]

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SALMON

"Carry-Over Effect of Captive Breeding Reduces Reproductive Fitness of Wild-Born Descendants in the Wild." By Becky Cooper and others. IN: Biology Letters, doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2009.0315. (June 10, 2009) Various pagings.

Full text at:

<http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/early/2009/06/03/rsbl.2009.0315.abstract?sid=49e3b14e-d120-457d-9e1b-95d6d10a860a>

["Steelhead trout that are originally bred in hatcheries are so genetically impaired that, even if they survive and reproduce in the wild, their offspring will also be significantly less successful at reproducing. The poor reproductive fitness of the wild-born offspring of hatchery fish means that adding hatchery fish to wild populations may ultimately be hurting efforts to sustain those wild runs. Fish born in the wild as the offspring of two hatchery-reared steelhead averaged only 37 percent the reproductive fitness of a fish with two wild parents. Most importantly, these differences were still detectable after a full generation of natural selection in the wild. The effect of hatcheries on reproductive fitness in succeeding generations had been predicted in theory but until now had never been demonstrated in actual field experiments." Science Daily (June 13, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-20-3872]

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WILDFIRES

After Action Report: Freeway Complex Fire. By the Orange County Fire Authority. (The Authority, Irvine, California) April 2009. 126 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ocfa.org/pages/ocfa.asp?filename=fcfaar.asp>

["Despite countless hours of practice and planning by the Orange County Fire Authority before last November's devastating Freeway Complex fire, firefighters disregarded orders and put others and themselves at risk. In the midst of a fire that raced through three canyons and directly into Yorba Linda, off-duty crews commandeered fire engines, driving engines into the firefight without telling superiors what they were doing or where they were going. Firefighters put themselves and others at risk and handcuffed firefighting options when they failed to follow their chain of command.... A total of 203 homes -- 117 in Yorba Linda -- were destroyed. An additional 117 residences were damaged, and more than 40,000 people were forced from their homes in the largest fire in Orange County since 1948." Orange County Register (April 23, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-20-3869]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Stem Cell Research: Strengthening Governance to Further the Voters' Mandate. By the Little Hoover Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 84 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/198/cirm/Report198.pdf>

["The Commission found that the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) governance structure is not adequate to protect taxpayers' interests or serve its own ambitious goals. The Legislature must reform CIRM's governance structure to ensure that it can deliver on its mission of developing cures for the benefit of all, as well as provide transparency and accountability for California's taxpayers who will be paying off the bonds.... Proposition 71 set up CIRM to prevent political meddling, a reaction to the emotionally charged debate surrounding the use of embryonic stem cells for research.... Its very specificity prevents CIRM from evolving, institutionalizes inefficiencies and hobbles its ability to transition to new leadership.... Some of the reforms that the Commission recommends CIRM can undertake on its own, others will require legislation."]

[Request #S09-20-3877]

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PROPERTY TAXES

Property Tax Circuit Breakers: Fair and Cost-Effective Relief for Taxpayers. By John H. Bowman. Virginia Commonwealth University, and others. (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts) May 2009. 60 p.

Full text at:

https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1569_838_Property%20Tax%20Circuit%20Breakers%20Final.pdf

["Property tax circuit breakers can be used to increase tax equity by reducing the most onerous property tax burdens as measured in relation to income. This is particularly important for households at the lower end of the income distribution, and for households in states with high property taxes. By targeting property relief to those most in need, circuit breakers promote tax equity at minimal cost to state and local budgets, while preserving the basic nature and strengths of this tax as a source of local revenue. Although circuit breakers have great potential for improving property tax fairness, many programs fall short of ideal. Recommendations for the best design for property tax circuit breakers are included in this policy focus report."]

[Request #S09-20-3875]

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SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Three Reasons to Revisit Special Districts. By Larita J. Killian. IN: Journal of Government Financial Management. (Summer 2009) pp. 14-17.

Full text at:

<https://members.agacgfm.org/scriptcontent/membersonly/AGAjournal/summer2009/Killian.pdf>

["Anyone concerned with government organization and effectiveness can benefit by taking time to consider special districts, which comprise 40 percent of all local government entities. Here are three reasons this is true. 1) Special districts are the most numerous and fastest growing type of government. 2) Every opportunity to improve cost-effectiveness of government must be examined. Well before the current financial crisis and attendant decline in government revenues, astute officials sought ways to streamline government and reduce costs. However, such efforts often bypass special districts. 3) Special districts impact overall government accountability. The point is not that special districts are necessarily less accountable than general-purpose entities but that the presence of so many special districts exacerbates the accountability challenge."]

[Request #S09-20-3876]

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STATE BUDGET

Josh Shaw et al. v. The People ex rel. John Chiang, as Controller, etc. et al. California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. C058479. June 30, 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/C058479.PDF>

["The state's attempt to divert \$1 billion in gas tax revenue from transit agencies to the general fund is illegal -- a dose of good news for beleaguered bus and rail lines that have been cutting service, raising fares and laying off workers. But the ruling could deepen the state's budget woes, as it loses funds being counted on to close the \$24 billion budget deficit.... California voters three years ago approved setting aside the sales tax on gasoline for transportation needs. The court said 'we conclude the funds the voters intended for mass transportation to mean public transportation or public transit,' and using those funds to pay off bond debts or general fund needs 'is invalid.' The state is expected to appeal the ruling and seek an immediate stay of the decision pending that appeal." San Jose Mercury News (July 1, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-20-3873]

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HEALTH

PESTICIDES

Poison on Pets II: Toxic Chemicals in Flea and Tick Collars. By Miriam Rotkin-Ellman and others, Natural Resources Defense Council. (The Council, New York, New York) April 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nrdc.org/health/poisonsonpets/files/poisonsonpets.pdf>

["A first-of-its-kind study shows that high levels of pesticide residue can remain on a dog's or cat's fur for weeks after a flea collar is put on an animal. Children are particularly at risk from these pesticides because their neurological and metabolic systems are still developing. The residues from two pesticides used in flea collars -- tetrachlorvinphos and propoxur, the most dangerous pesticides on the market -- were high enough to pose a risk to both children and adults who play with their pets. The study found that after only three days, 50 percent of the pets wearing collars with tetrachlorvinphos had enough residue on their fur to pose neurological risks exceeding the U.S. EPA's acceptable dose level for toddlers who spend an average amount of time with their pet."]
[Request #S09-20-3831]

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Preparing for Pandemic Flu: What We Should and Should Not Do. By Tyler Cowen, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. (The Center, Arlington, Virginia) April 2009. 4 p.

Full text at:

http://www.mercatus.org/uploadedFiles/Mercatus/Publications/PDF_MOP_Preparing%20for%20Pandemic%20Flu.pdf

["A good response to a pandemic or crisis must allow for effective decentralized action. Detecting a pandemic, instituting protective measures, and applying treatment all require the effective cooperation of many individuals and institutions. A strict top-down approach will not work. If a truly serious pandemic arrives, as a matter of practical fact we are likely to be 'on our own' with respect to the federal government.... In short, we should spend more on local health infrastructure, emergency rooms, and general disaster preparation and less on centralized command-and-control approaches, including quarantine, isolation, and use of the military.... The single most important thing we can do for a pandemic -- whether swine flu or not -- is to have well-prepared local health-care systems."]

[Request #S09-20-3835]

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RESEARCH

Report to the President and the Congress. By the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research. (Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC) June 30, 2009. 77 p.

Full text at: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cer/cerannualrpt.pdf>

["Patient-centered comparative effectiveness research focuses on filling gaps in evidence needed by clinicians and patients to make informed decisions.... Comparative effectiveness differs from efficacy research because it is ultimately applicable to real-world needs and decisions faced by patients, clinicians, and other decision makers.... The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research.... This research is critical to transforming our health care system to deliver higher quality and more value to all Americans. The Council specifically focused on recommendations for use of the Office of Secretary funds to fill high priority gaps that were less likely to be funded by other organizations and therefore represent unique opportunities for these funds."]

[Request #S09-20-3886]

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Initial National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research. By the Committee on Comparative Effectiveness Research Prioritization, Institute of Medicine. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) June 2009.

["A sustainable national program of comparative effectiveness research (CER) will require coordination of private and public strategies. The program must be accountable to the American people through periodic progress reports. Moreover, consumers, patients, and caregivers as well as their health care providers must be involved in all aspects of CER to ensure its relevance to everyday health care delivery. A large public-private CER enterprise will require a supporting infrastructure to efficiently move the science forward. In addition to the capacity to support high-efficiency, pragmatic randomized trials, the program will require large-scale clinical and administrative data networks that enable observational studies of patient care while protecting patient privacy and data security."] Note: "Initial National Priorities..." is available for loan.

Report. 220 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12648#toc

Executive Summary. 37 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12648&type=pdfxsum

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Implementing Comparative Effectiveness Research: Priorities, Methods, and Impact. By Mark McClellan, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform, and others. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) June 2009. 88 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2009/0609_health_care_cer/0609_health_care_cer.pdf

["Supporters of expanded comparative effectiveness research (CER) believe that compelling evidence will lead patients and their doctors to make better choices among various medical treatments, leading to better outcomes and in cases where an equally or more effective treatment may cost less, lower health care spending.... On the other hand, some critics argue that CER results are likely to be misused, and the evidence may be outdated by the time it is available. The technical capabilities of an intervention may evolve as providers become more experienced with it; drugs may be dosed differently or used in different combinations than in CER studies. Finally, if the results of a CER study of alternative treatments are strictly applied to a broad population -- for example, through a decision not to cover a treatment based on the CER results -- then outcomes may worsen for particular patients."]

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The Facts About Comparative Effectiveness Research: How Studying Which Treatments Work Can Improve Care and Reduce Costs. By Jeffrey Bernstein, U.S. Public Interest Research Group. (CALPIRG Education Fund, Sacramento, California) July 2009. 23 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calpirg.org/uploads/2w/LL/2wLLoupwmrWESVI3DDjI0Q/The-Facts-About-CER.pdf>

[“Comparative effectiveness research (CER) has emerged as an unlikely flashpoint of controversy. Opponents’ claims that CER results in the rationing of health care or a government takeover are belied by the true nature of such research: it is simply fundamental scientific research of medical treatments aimed at determining the most effective ways to treat sickness and injury.... The tremendous need for this research is made clear by studies showing that only a minority of medical treatments currently being used are supported by valid research. As medical innovation accelerates, and new techniques, drugs, and devices enter the market daily, the need to gauge the effectiveness of these innovations increases.”]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Moral and Social Constraints to Strategic Default on Mortgages. By Paola Sapienza, Northwestern University, and others. (Chicago Booth/Kellogg School Financial Trust Index, Chicago, Illinois) June 2009. 33 p.

Full text at:
http://www.financialtrustindex.org/images/Guiso_Sapienza_Zingales_StrategicDefault.pdf

[“We study American households’ propensity to default when the value of their mortgage exceeds the value of their house even if they can afford to pay their mortgage (strategic default). We find that 26% of the existing defaults are strategic. We also find that no household would default if the equity shortfall is less than 10% of the value of the house. Yet, 17% of households would default when the equity shortfall reaches 50% of the value of their house. Besides relocation costs, the most important variables in predicting strategic default are moral and social considerations.... That moral attitudes toward default do not change with the percentage of foreclosures in the area suggests that the correlation between willingness to default and percentage of foreclosures is likely to derive from a contagion effect that reduces the social stigma associated with default as defaults become more common.”]

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Reverse Mortgages: Product Complexity and Consumer Protection Issues Underscore Need for Improved Controls over Counseling for Borrowers. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-606. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2009. 80 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09606.pdf>

["Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM) can provide borrowers with multiple benefits, but they also have substantial costs and are relatively complex.... Although agencies have reported few HECM marketing complaints, GAO's limited review of selected marketing materials for reverse mortgages found some examples of claims that were potentially misleading because they were inaccurate, incomplete, or employed questionable sales tactics.... The Department of Housing and Urban Development has not tested the effectiveness of controls and lacks procedures to ensure that records of counseling sessions are accurate. Because of these weaknesses, some prospective borrowers may not be receiving the information necessary to make informed decisions about obtaining a HECM."]
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HUMAN SERVICES

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

Extending the EITC to Noncustodial Parents: Potential Impacts and Design Considerations. By Laura Wheaton and Elaine Sorensen, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 23, 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411906_noncustodial_parents.pdf

["Low-income noncustodial parents are ineligible for the EITC benefits available to low-income families with children, even when they support their children through full payment of child support. While the EITC and child support have successfully removed many low-income working families from poverty, the combined effect of taxes and child support payments can impoverish noncustodial parents working at or near the minimum wage. Noncustodial parent (NCP) EITC policies work to reduce this disparity.... We examine three policy scenarios for a national NCP EITC, which are based on the NCP credits adopted by New York and Washington, D.C. and proposed in S. 1626. Based on the NCP EITC policies examined here, we estimate that as many as 645,000 noncustodial parents would be eligible for an NCP EITC."]
[Request #S09-20-3881]

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FOSTER CARE

Extending Foster Care to Age 21: Weighing the Costs to Government against the Benefits to Youth. By Clark M. Peters and others, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (The Hall, Chicago, Illinois) June 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/publications/Issue_Brief%2006_23_09.pdf

["The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 allows states to claim federal reimbursement for the costs of caring for and supervising Title IV-E eligible foster youth until their 21st birthday. This issue brief provides preliminary estimates of what the potential costs to government and the benefits to young people would be if states extend foster care to age 21. The analysis focuses on the increase in postsecondary educational attainment associated with allowing foster youth to remain in care until they are 21 years old and the resulting increase in lifetime earnings associated with postsecondary education. Researchers estimate that lifetime earnings would increase an average of two dollars for every dollar spent on keeping foster youth in care beyond age 18."]
[Request #S09-20-3880]

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INSURANCE

INSURANCE INDUSTRY

The National Insurance Consumer Protection Act's Potential Impact on the Social Resiliency of Hazard-Prone Regions. By David C. Marlett, Appalachian State University. (The Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia) June 2009. 26 p.

Full text at: [National Insurance Consumer Protection Act's Potential Impact](#)

["The ability of communities to recover from disasters depends on a well-functioning property insurance market. However, many states insurance markets are substantially distorted or are hobbled by excessive regulation. As a solution, there has been proposed an Optional Federal Charter (OFC) system, under which insurers would be able to opt into a federal regulatory system, leaving behind the system of patchwork state regulations. This approach would provide insurers the option of obtaining either a state or a federal charter.... If policy makers choose to proceed with an OFC system, they should focus attention on: 1) Minimizing political risk, 2) Allowing competitive rating and minimizing rate suppression, 3) Minimizing the immediate impact on policy holders, and 4) Maintaining the antitrust exemption."]
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TRANSPORTATION

FUEL CONSUMPTION

Fixing Detroit: How Far, How Fast, How Fuel Efficient. By Walter McManus, University of Michigan, and Rob Kleinbaum, RAK & Co. (The University, Ann Arbor, Michigan) June 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/63024/1/102298.pdf>

["The crisis of 2009 is the worst the industry has ever experienced.... Looking at the actions of successful corporate turnarounds, the lessons are very clear: implement broad, deep, fast change, replace the management team, and transform the culture. We modeled the impacts of different fuel economy standards on profitability and sales, using the most accepted estimates of all the key parameters, and conducted an extensive sensitivity analysis on the key parameters. The impact of higher fuel economy standards on industry profits is very clear: increasing fuel economy 30% to 50% (35 MPG to 40.5 MPG) would increase the Detroit 3's gross profits by roughly \$3 billion per year, and increase sales by the equivalent of two large assembly plants. The overall risk and reward profile is very positive, with only a small chance of losing and a very large probability of gain."]

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MOTORCYCLES

Motorcycle Trends in the United States. By C. Craig Morris, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) May 2009. 6 p.

Full text at:

http://www.bts.gov/publications/bts_special_report/2009_05_14/pdf/entire.pdf

["During the last decade there has been a significant increase in the number of motorcycle sales and registrations. At the same time there has been a shift in the demographics of motorcycle users and increased focus on motorcycle safety issues. This report focuses on the current and emerging trends involving street-legal (on-road and dual-purpose) motorcycles.... Motorcycle registrations in the United States have grown each of the past 10 years, from 3,826,373 in 1997 to 6,678,958 in 2006 -- a 75 percent increase overall.... Demographics data for the 1985 to 2003 period reveals a shift towards older owners. The median age of owners increased from 27.1 years in 1985 to 41.0 years in 2003. From 1985 to 2003, the percentage of owners 40-49 years old increased from 13.2 to 27.9 percent, and the percentage of owners 50+ years old increased from 8.1 to 25.1 percent."]

[Request #S09-20-3882]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

The States And the Stimulus: How California and Other States Spent Surface Transportation Funds in the First 120 Days. By Smart Growth America and CALPIRG Education Fund. (The Fund, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 42

Full text at: <http://www.calpirg.org/uploads/1Q/iU/1QiUobj3w-DW91OE3ZKNrw/The-States-and-the-Stimulus-California-Version.pdf>

["June 29th marks the 120-day deadline for states to commit at least 50% of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) \$26.6 billion in transportation funds. It is a good time to examine how states are using the money.... By mid-June, California had spent \$2.17 billion out of the \$2.6 billion it will receive in surface transportation funds. California did not take advantage of the flexibility of the funds to direct a notable portion to public transportation, despite its benefits. 96 percent has been spent on roads instead of public transportation or other non-motorized needs. Despite having a backlog of more than \$1.5 billion in ready-to-go road and bridge repair jobs, 43 percent of that road funding immediately went to new capacity. California ranked 42nd out of the fifty states for the percentage of road funding that went to repair instead of new capacity."][Request #S09-20-3855]

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Equity and Congestion Pricing: A Review of the Evidence. By Liisa Ecola and Thomas Light, RAND Corporation. (Environmental Defense Fund, New York, New York) June 2009. 62 p.

["Congestion pricing to improve traffic flow is most effective when transportation planners incorporate equity goals into the early planning stages of a pricing program. Transportation policymakers adopt congestion pricing -- charging drivers more to travel particular routes at peak travel times -- to reduce traffic gridlock and air and global warming pollution, and to raise money for transportation projects, especially mass transit. However, since these policies impose a cost on driving in a location that previously was free, critics often suggest that it will disproportionately impact lower-income drivers, so some would be 'priced off' the roads.... Methods to promote equitable outcomes include revenue redistribution, discounts and exemptions, and other tools such as a residential parking-permit program." EDF Press Release (June 2, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-20-3742]

Report. 62 p.

http://www.edf.org/documents/9876_Rand_TR680_.pdf

Press Release. 1 p.

<http://www.edf.org/pressrelease.cfm?contentID=9881>

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Performance Driven: A New Vision for U.S. Transportation Policy. By the National Transportation Policy Project. (The Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC) June 9, 2009. 136 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/10647>

["National transportation policy has lost direction and a clear sense of purpose, threatening substantial costs to our collective prosperity, security, environment, and quality of life. We are recommending bold and comprehensive reform founded on a relatively simple proposition: U.S. transportation policy needs to be more performance-driven, more directly linked to a set of clearly articulated goals, and more accountable for results.... Taken together, the recommendations of this report with regard to federal goals, accountability measures, programmatic restructuring, funding approach, and revenue strategies constitute a far-reaching and bold reform agenda.... Fundamental changes in U.S. transportation policy is not only well-justified by the large benefits that could be achieved -- but is in fact necessary given the scale and urgency of the multiple transportation-related challenges."]

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