

### LAWYER-LEGISLATORS: ONE MORE ADDED POST-ELECTION DAY

The State Senate gained another lawyer-legislator 11 days after the November 7 general election, when former Assembly Member [Lou Correa](#) (D-Santa Ana) was declared the winner in the hotly contested race for the 34<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat vacated by the termed out Joe Dunn. Correa, who trailed after election day by 13 votes, ultimately prevailed over Republican Lynn Daucher by just under 1,400 votes after all absentee and provisional ballots were counted.



Correa

Correa's election brings the number of lawyer lawmakers in the Senate – and the Legislature as a whole – to an even 20%. Eight of the 40 Senators are attorneys, as are 16 of the 80 members of the Assembly.

Like his fellow freshman lawyer-Senators, [Darrell Steinberg](#) (D-Sacramento) and [Ellen Corbett](#) (D-San Leandro), Correa is a six-year veteran of the Assembly who was termed out and had to wait two years before a Senate seat opened up. During his hiatus from the Legislature, Correa ran for and won a seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

While in the Assembly, Correa chaired the Business and Professions Committee for four years.

Correa's election still leaves the Senate four lawyers shy of last session's total, with Democrats holding a 6-2 (75%) advantage – the same ratio that exists in the Assembly, where Democratic lawyer-legislators outnumber Republicans 12-4. The 24 lawyer-legislators is still the lowest number since the advent of the full-time Legislature in 1964, and possibly the lowest in a century.

### CORBETT TO CHAIR SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; JONES RETAINS ASSEMBLY PANEL

Freshman Senator [Ellen Corbett](#) is expected to be named chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, according to well-placed sources inside and outside the Capitol.

Corbett will be only the second woman to chair the Judiciary panel, and the first woman to chair the committee during her first year. The only other freshman chair of the Judiciary Committee was former Senate President pro Tem John Burton, who

took the reins after an 18-year Assembly career, sandwiched around nine years in Congress.



Corbett

Corbett is a former Assembly Member (1998-2004) and former chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee who spent two years in private practice, as Of Counsel to the Sturdevant Law Firm, while waiting for the 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat to open up.

A graduate of UC Davis (Political Science) and McGeorge School of Law, Corbett was a small-firm attorney, community college teacher, and Mayor of San Leandro prior to her Assembly term.

Second-term Assembly Member [Dave Jones](#) (D-Sacramento) will continue as chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Jones was appointed chair of the panel at the beginning of his freshman term in December 2005. He was the first freshman Assembly Member in modern history to chair the Judiciary Committee.



Jones

### LEGISLATURE CONVENES, ORGANIZES, RECESSES

The 2007-08 Session of the California Legislature convened Monday, December 4. New members were sworn in, officers elected, committee chairs appointed (in the case of the Assembly), and [127 bills \(plus sundry resolutions\) introduced](#).

The Legislature then recessed until January 3. The recess, originally designed to permit the constitutionally required 30 days to run before bills may be heard, now provides new members with the opportunity to organize their offices, hire staff, and otherwise prepare for the coming year.

### DEADLINES UPCOMING

- [Wednesday, January 3, 2007](#) – Legislature reconvenes after holiday recess.
- [Wednesday, January 10](#) -- Budget bill must be submitted by the Governor.
- [Friday, January 26](#) – Last day to submit bill drafting requests to Legislative Counsel.
- [Friday, February 23](#) – Last day for bills to be introduced (except committee and urgency measures).