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Reports

Organizational Assessment of the California Council for the Humanities for the National Endowment for the Humanities, October 2009, with Pamela Hilton Snow.

The following public policy research reports were written while Dr. Simmons was Assistant and Acting Director, California Research Bureau (please download at www.library.ca.gov under "CRB Reports")

Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption, A Case Study. Publication pending. This case study sponsored by Senator Carol Liu examines parents and children whose relationships have been legally severed and offers important insights into their life situations and interactions with child welfare services and the state's judicial and correctional systems.

Student Loans for Higher Education. 2008. This report, requested by Assemblymember Sally Lieber, describes federally subsidized and guaranteed loans, examines the private student loan industry, and discusses issues relating to student debt and financial counseling.

Ex Parte Communications: The Law and Practices at Six California Boards and Commissions. 2008. This report, requested by Assemblymember Loni Hancock, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, examines the legal limitations on ex parte communications between board commissioners and interested outsiders on six state boards and commissions:

California Tribal-State Gambling Compacts, 1999-2006. 2007. This report describes key provisions in California's tribal-state compacts, presenting them in a comparative framework to facilitate policy discussion.

Hospital Planning: What Happened to California's Certificate of Need Program? 2006. This report responds to a request from Assemblymember Wilma Chan, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, to research what happened to California's hospital certificate of need program.

Gambling in the Golden State: 1998 Forward. 2006. This report was requested by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and provides an overview of gambling in California since 1998, including its social and economic impacts.

To Faithfully Execute the Law: California's Executive Branch Agencies 1959-2003. 2004. This report requested by the Schwarzenegger Administration describes the history of executive branch agencies, their roles in the governor's cabinet, and evaluations of their performance.

California Law and the Children of Prisoners. 2003. This report examines California law as it touches on the lives of prisoners and their children.

Legislative Oversight of the Executive Branch. 2002. This report provides a general discussion of legislative oversight and was prepared at the request of Assemblymember Joe Canciamilla.

A Summary of Recommendations for Reforms to the State Budget Process. 2002. This report summarizes recommendations made by commissions and study groups over a decade as to how to improve the state's budget process, and was requested by Assemblymember Canciamilla.

Children of Incarcerated Parents. 2000. Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni requested a broad research review summarizing what is known about the children of incarcerated parents.

Building a Skilled State Information and Technology Workforce. with Alicia Bugarin, 1999. This report examines the state's information technology staffing structure and contrasts it with IT employment practices in six California companies. It was requested by the State CIO.

Local Government Ethics Ordinances in California. 1998. This report discusses state ethics laws and findings from a survey of local ethics ordinances. It was requested by Senator Craven, Chair of the Senate Local Government and Ethics Committees.

State Military Base Retention Programs. 1997. Assemblyman Joe Baca requested information on state programs to retain active military bases.

California's Statewide Initiative Process. 1997. This report discusses California's statewide initiative process, its history, public attitudes toward the process, and reform proposals.

The Many Faces of Mexico. with CRB staff, 1997. This report provides California policymakers with information about key demographic, education, health, economic, and political factors that characterize modern Mexico. It was requested by Governor Wilson.

California Military Base Closures. with Roger Dunstan, 1993. This report describes the base closure process and its employment impact on California and provides information about federal and state programs.

Defense Conversion Policy: The Defense Authorization and Appropriations Acts for Fiscal Year 1993. 1993. This report summarizes the impact of defense reductions on the California economy, outlines newly enacted federal defense conversion programs, and offers state policy options.

Video Presentations

Subject Matter Expert for the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) on law enforcement training telecourse DVDs.

Responsibility for Children When a Parent is Arrested, 2008.

Drug Endangered Children, 2009.

The At-Risk Youth and Mental Health Research Project, funded by the California Wellness Foundation and undertaken in partnership with the California Council on Youth Relations.

Bringing Young People to the Policy Table, a 12 minute DVD, 2005.

Other

Legislative testimonies and organizational presentations available on request