



California Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of  
Teachers, AFL-CIO



San Francisco Community  
College Federation  
of Teachers

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014

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# **Judge to Hear Arguments on City College, Accrediting Commission** *Faculty, students available to comment*

Arguments on motions for summary judgment in San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera's lawsuit against the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) will be heard on Wednesday, July 10th, 2014, at the San Francisco Superior Courthouse. The City Attorney filed suit last year to reverse the commission's inappropriate and illegal sanctions against City College of San Francisco (CCSF) and to keep the college open for its 80,000 students. Judge Curtis Karnow granted an injunction last January to keep CCSF open through the trial.

City College students, faculty, and community supporters are expected to turn out to show their support for the suit and for their college.

The ACCJC's decision to place CCSF on "Show Cause" status has been condemned by many elected officials. Court testimony recently made public revealed that ACCJC disregarded its own visiting team's unanimous recommendations in 2012 and increased the level of recommended sanctions. The City Attorney's case demonstrates the harm imposed on City College by an unaccountable agency.

"No one on the visiting team in 2012 recommended "Show Cause." We have been taken through this process unfairly by the ACCJC, and the only hope that our 80,000 students have is the City Attorney's court case," said CCSF Student Trustee Shanell Williams.

"Beyond these latest revelations, the new process created for CCSF called 'Restoration' is part of the same illegal and unfair pattern of actions by the ACCJC. It treats CCSF differently compared to all other colleges," said Tim Killikelly, instructor in Political Science, and President of AFT 2121, the faculty union at CCSF.

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“Community college faculty across the state are hoping that this hearing and the trial result in a reversal of the ACCJC’s illegitimate decisions,” said California Federation of Teachers president Joshua Pechthalt. “When the agency responsible for assuring the quality of education in our community colleges cannot be trusted, the system of higher public education itself is thrown into question. This court can set things right by ruling the ACCJC must run a new, fair accreditation review.”

According to Herrera at the time he filed suit, “The evidence is clear that the ACCJC ignored multiple conflicts of interest, flouted laws, and allowed its political advocacy to color public responsibilities it should frankly never have been given. This accreditation process has exposed bias, institutional flaws and illegalities in the oversight of the nation’s largest higher education system. It potentially affects 72 community college districts, 112 community colleges, and more than 2 million students in California.”

City College faculty and students will be available to speak with reporters from 8:30 to 9 a.m. outside the courthouse, and after the hearing concludes.

**WHAT: Hearing of motions for summary judgment**

**WHO: CCSF Faculty and Students**

**WHEN: 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., September 10, 2014**

**WHERE: S.F. Superior Court, 400 McAlister Street, SF 94102**

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*AFT 2121 represents faculty, librarians, counselors and other certificated employees of City College of San Francisco. The CFT represents over 25,000 faculty in thirty community college districts, and 120,000 educational employees at every level of the education system, from Head Start to UC. More info: [www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org)*