



April 17, 2013

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Chief Justice of California
Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4797

Dear Governor Brown and Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye:

The Trial Court Funding Workgroup that you jointly created this past fall has completed its work. The workgroup, cochaired by the Honorable Phillip Isenberg and the Honorable Harry Hull, met five times from November 2012 through March 2013, and developed a comprehensive set of findings and recommendations. The final report is attached.

The workgroup concluded that the judicial branch has substantially complied with the Trial Court Funding Act. However, there remains additional work to be done by the judicial branch to ensure that litigants across the state have equal access to justice and that funding for the branch is allocated in a manner that leads to greater access. The report contains 18 recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council. Among other continuing work set forth in detail in the recommendations, the workgroup recommends that the branch identify and consider implementing efficiencies and best practices more uniformly, and adopt appropriate measures to assess improvements in providing access to justice for all Californians.

This collaborative effort between the judicial and executive branches was a successful approach to tackling these long-standing, complex issues facing the judiciary. We appreciate your joint vision in creating the workgroup and setting forth the important tasks it needed to accomplish.

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The final report of the workgroup will be presented to the Judicial Council at its meeting on April 26, 2013.

Sincerely,



Ana J. Matosantos
Director
California Department of Finance



Jody Patel
Chief of Staff
Administrative Office of the Courts

AJM/JP/dh
Enclosure

cc: Judge Steven Jahr, Administrative Director of the Courts
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Office of the Governor
Diane Cummins, Special Advisor to the Governor on Realignment
Curtis L. Child, AOC Chief Operating Officer
Curt Soderlund, AOC Chief Administrative Officer