



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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April 4, 2018

Hon. Mark Stone, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 2446 (Oberholte), as introduced – Support
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – April 17, 2018

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

The Judicial Council supports AB 2446, which would increase, from seven to eight, the number of appellate justices for the Second Division of the Fourth Appellate District, which serves the counties of San Bernardino and Riverside. AB 2446 would appropriate funding for that new justice, as well as funding for ten of the 50 superior court judgeships that have been authorized, but not funded, since 2007, including funding for staff.

Riverside and San Bernardino counties have experienced significant population growth over the last two decades. A report by the United States Conference of Mayors found that the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metro area is expected to grow from 4.5 million (2017) to 7.2 million people in the next 30 years, making it one of the top 10 largest metro areas by 2046. With that growth comes the need for enhanced infrastructure of many kinds, including courts. In the context of this projected growth, the Fourth Appellate District, which includes the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, has a workload that *currently* requires the justice proposed in AB 2446 to help address significant backlogs and delays in issues on appeal in that district.

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The need for trial court judges is, likewise, acute. A detailed analysis required by state law of judicial workload conducted in 2016 identified a need for more than 180 additional judges statewide to satisfy workload requirements in California's 58 Superior Courts. In that report, six of the first ten judges are needed in the same Inland Empire counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.

AB 2446 is a crucial step to addressing the need for judges in these counties. The number of authorized judges in these counties falls well below the number of judges needed to handle the workload:

- San Bernardino County has experienced a 13 percent growth in population in the last decade, and has less than 65 percent of the judges needed in that county.
- Riverside County has experienced a 30 percent growth in population and has less than 65 percent of the judges needed in that county.
- Kern County has experienced a 22 percent growth in population and has 75 percent of the judges needed in that county.

The judgeships for which funding is appropriated in AB 2446 were authorized by law in 2007, pursuant to AB 159 (Stats. 2007, ch. 722). These judgeships remain unfunded. Indeed, the Judicial Council has sponsored legislation to fund these judgeships in 2008 (SB 1150, Corbett), 2009 (SB 377, Corbett), 2011 (AB 1405, Feuer), 2014 (SB 1190, Jackson), 2015 (SB 229, Roth), and 2016 (SB 1023, Judiciary Committee), and 2017 (SB 38, Roth), but in the midst of the state's economic downturn, these efforts were unsuccessful.

If you have any questions for the judicial branch about AB 2446, please contact Andi Liebenbaum at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Mailed on April 4, 2018

Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/AL/yc-s

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee

Hon. Jay Obernolte, Member of the Assembly

Mr. Nicholas Liedtke, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee

Mr. Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy

Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California