



**Superior Court of California  
County of San Bernardino**

Marsha G. Slough  
Presiding Judge

303 West Third Street, Fourth Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0302

(909) 708-8769  
Fax: (909) 708-8782

November 5, 2012

*Written Comment for November 6, 2012.*

Trial Court Funding Workgroup:

On behalf of the San Bernardino Superior Court, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the formation of this workgroup. We appreciate the extensive work that each member and staff will contribute toward understanding and addressing long overdue issues of access to justice and equity. We, in this and other historically underfunded Counties, daily witness the increasingly disparate impact to citizens in our jurisdictions that crushing judicial caseloads, inadequate staffing, and inequitably distributed resources are having. These conditions are worsening, particularly in the inland regions of California, which face sustained higher than average population and caseload growth.

This situation looks to be further exacerbated as the full weight of substantial reductions are allocated "proportionately" statewide. We believe that large reductions that are proportionate based upon relative court funding only, but which do not take into account historical inequities and substantial differential population and caseload growth will lead to demonstrably disproportionate outcomes, court by court. We encourage the working group to review these issues and look forward to your analysis and recommendations in this area.

We appreciate that your charge is great and that a full remedy will be difficult to formulate. The Judges and staff of San Bernardino County stand ready to provide any assistance we can offer to you in accomplishing your task. Your work will be of great benefit to the Courts, and more so to the citizens of this State.

Regards,

MARSHA G. SLOUGH  
Presiding Judge

STEPHEN H. NASH  
Court Executive Officer