



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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*Director, Governmental Affairs*

September 21, 2017

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1692 (Committee on Judiciary) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council respectfully requests your signature on AB 1692, which, among other things, ratifies the authority of the Judicial Council to convert up to 10 vacant subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships in fiscal year 2017–2018, where the conversion results in a judge being assigned to family or juvenile law matters previously assigned to a subordinate judicial officer.

Because no new judgeships have been created or funded, courts have had to hire SJOs simply to meet the demands of the courts' workload. As a result, these SJOs have not simply been assigned to perform subordinate judicial duties, but in many cases they have been assigned as temporary judges, exercising the full power of judges, including in family law and juvenile law proceedings. Family law and juvenile law proceedings, among the courts' most sensitive and often most complex, should be assigned to judges whenever possible. The conversion of SJO positions to judgeships, upon vacancy, will allow more of these crucial family and juvenile law cases to be heard by judges.

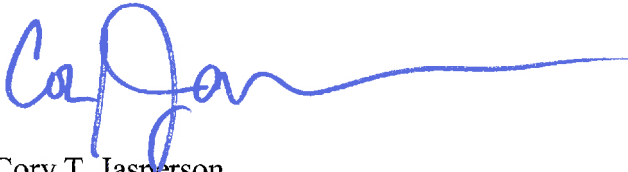
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Legislation enacted in 2006, authorized the Judicial Council to convert 162 SJO positions in eligible courts to judgeships, upon SJO positions becoming vacant. That legislation also capped at 16 the number of positions that could be converted in a single fiscal year. AB 2882 does not increase the 162 total conversions authorized by statute. However, the conversion of SJO positions to judgeships that this bill authorizes will allow more family and juvenile law cases to be heard by judges.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 1692.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alan Herzfeld at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ANH/LS/yc-s

cc: Hon. Mark Stone, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Ms. Leora Gershenzon, Deputy Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Mr. Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California