Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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February 11, 2008

Hon. Denise Ducheny
California State Senate
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. John Laird
California State Assembly
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Annual Report of Fiscal Year 2006–2007 Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings, as Required by Government Code Section 68086

Dear Senator Ducheny and Assembly Member Laird:

The Judicial Council respectfully submits this report required under Government Code section 68086 on court reporter fees collected in fiscal year (FY) 2006–2007 and on FY 2006–2007 expenditures related to court reporters in superior court civil proceedings. Government Code section 68086 specifically requires the Judicial Council to report on fees collected from parties in civil actions for the cost of providing a court reporter for proceedings lasting more than one hour, the total amount spent for services of official court reports in civil proceedings, and fees collected under Government Code section 68086.1 as part of all first paper filing fees in civil actions ($25) that are to be used for the services of official court reporters in civil actions.

In FY 2006–2007, $26,196,667 was remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund for the amounts collected in accordance with the above-referenced sections:

- $11,001,547 was related to fees charged in civil proceedings lasting more than one hour for the services of an official court reporter on the first and each succeeding judicial day whose services are provided under section 269 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- $15,195,121 was related to the $25 portion of the $300 or $320 first paper filing and response fee for a civil action or proceeding in the superior court. The amount reflects revenues collected for first paper filings from July 2006 to June 2007.

In FY 2006–2007, the estimated cost of civil reporters in superior court civil proceedings was $72,019,243. The expenditure amount is an estimate since most courts do not track by case categories the amount of time court reporters spend in various civil proceedings. The estimate of $72,019,243 was arrived at by multiplying the sum of the total FY 2006–2007 budgeted salaries and benefits of all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2006 ($201,826,128) and total FY 2006–2007 expenditures on contract court reporters ($6,925,299) by the estimated relative amount of time court reporters spend on civil cases, specifically civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family cases: 34.5 percent. The time percentage estimate is based on the most recent time study survey conducted by the National Center for State Courts (September 2003) and involved nine superior courts, representing about 47 percent of statewide authorized court reporter positions. The nine courts that participated in the study were the Superior Courts of Amador, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Shasta, and Stanislaus Counties.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Mr. Stephen Nash, Director of Finance, at 415-865-7584 or stephen.nash@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/SC
cc: Jody Martin, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
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