Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

May 19, 2005

Hon. Carole Migden, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 57 (Alarcón), as amended April 25, 2005 – Oppose
Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee – May 23, 2005

Dear Senator Migden:

The Judicial Council opposes Senate Bill 57, which authorizes a county board of supervisors to levy a new $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for criminal offenses. In addition, the bill authorizes a county board, by resolution, to levy another $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for seat belt, speed limit, driving under the influence (DUI) and domestic violence offenses.

The new penalty assessments authorized by SB 57 will impose significant burdens on court administration. In counties that adopt the assessments, courts will be forced to reprogram their case management systems (CMS) to perform the new fine calculations. Unfortunately, some of the older CMS systems used by courts are not even capable of the reprogram that would be necessary to collect that assessments provided for in the bill. Courts utilizing these older CMS will either have to perform the new fine calculations by hand, or completely abandon their systems. In either circumstance, courts will incur substantial costs in their efforts to comply.

For these reasons the Judicial Council opposes SB 57.

Sincerely,

Ray Sardo
Legislative Coordinator

RS/lb
cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Richard Alarcón, Member of the Senate
Ms. Nora Lynn, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research

Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

April 22, 2005

Hon. Elaina Alquist, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 4088
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 57 (Alarcón), as introduced – Request for referral to the Senate Appropriations Committee
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – May 3, 2005

Dear Senator Alquist:

The Judicial Council recently submitted a letter to the Senate Public Safety Committee indicating its opposition to Senate Bill 57. The bill authorizes a county board of supervisors to levy two new $2 penalty assessments for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for specified criminal offenses.

The new penalty assessments authorized by SB 57 will impose significant burdens on court administration. In counties that adopt the assessments, courts will be forced to reprogram their case management systems (CMS) to perform the new fine calculations. Unfortunately, some of the older CMS systems used by courts are not even capable of reprogram. Consequently, courts utilizing these older CMS will either have to perform the new fine calculations by hand, or completely abandon their systems. In either circumstance, courts will incur substantial costs in their efforts to comply.

More importantly, SB 57 is not keyed fiscal despite the significant statewide costs that the bill would create. These costs form the basis of the Judicial Council's opposition to the bill, and should be reviewed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. For these reasons, the Judicial

Council respectfully requests that should the bill pass the Senate Public Safety Committee it be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

Ray Sardo
Legislative Coordinator

RS/lb
cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Hon. Richard Alarcón, Member of the Senate
Ms. Mary Kennedy, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Sue Blake, Assistant Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research

Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

March 23, 2005

Hon. Elaina Alquist, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 4088
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 57 (Alarcón), as introduced – Oppose
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – April 19, 2005

Dear Senator Alarcón:

The Judicial Council opposes Senate Bill 57, which authorizes a county board of supervisors to levy a new $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for criminal offenses. In addition, the bill authorizes a county board, by resolution, to levy another $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for seat belt, speed limit, driving under the influence (DUI) and domestic violence offenses.

The new penalty assessments authorized by SB 57 will impose significant burdens on court administration. In counties that adopt the assessments, courts will be forced to reprogram their case management systems (CMS) to perform the new fine calculations. Unfortunately, some of the older CMS systems used by courts are not even capable of reprogram. Consequently, courts utilizing these older CMS will either have to perform the new fine calculations by hand, or completely abandon their systems. In either circumstance, courts will incur substantial costs in their efforts to comply.

For these reasons the Judicial Council opposes SB 57.

Sincerely,

Ray Sardo
Legislative Coordinator

RS/lb
cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Hon. Richard Alarcón, Member of the Senate
Ms. Mary Kennedy, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research

Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

March 23, 2005

Hon. Richard Alarcón
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 57 (Alarcón), as introduced – Oppose
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – April 19, 2005

Dear Senator Alarcón:

The Judicial Council opposes Senate Bill 57, which authorizes a county board of supervisors to levy a new $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for criminal offenses. In addition, the bill authorizes a county board, by resolution, to levy another $2 penalty assessment for every $10 in base fine, upon every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for seat belt, speed limit, driving under the influence (DUI) and domestic violence offenses.

The new penalty assessments authorized by SB 57 will impose significant burdens on court administration. In counties that adopt the assessments, courts will be forced to reprogram their case management systems (CMS) to perform the new fine calculations. Unfortunately, some of the older CMS systems used by courts are not even capable of reprogram. Consequently, courts utilizing these older CMS will either have to perform the new fine calculations by hand, or completely abandon their systems. In either circumstance, courts will incur substantial costs in their efforts to comply.

For these reasons the Judicial Council opposes SB 57.

Sincerely,

Ray Sardo
Legislative Coordinator

RS/lb
cc: Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research