

# Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

#### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393
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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

CURTIS L. CHILD Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

June 21, 2010

Hon. Ellen Corbett, Chair Senate Judiciary Committee State Capitol, Room 5108 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 1749 (Lowenthal), as amended April 27, 2010 - Support

Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – June 29, 2010

### Dear Senator Corbett:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1749 (Lowenthal), which would bring employees of the judicial branch within the protections of the California Whistleblower Protection Act (CWPA), because it will promote transparency and accountability within the branch in a manner that appropriately acknowledges the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. As recently amended, AB 1749 will ensure that all branch employees can safely report improper governmental activity without fear of reprisal. One of the primary objectives of the CWPA is to promote efficiency in government and deter public entities from engaging in economically wasteful activity. The courts and the AOC are entrusted with a significant share of state taxpayer dollars, and it is appropriate that judicial branch entities are held accountable for their expenditure of those funds in a manner analogous to the other branches. AB 1749 will promote that result and ensure that there is no appearance that judicial branch expenditures are lacking in accountability or transparency.

Hon. Ellen Corbett June 21, 2010 Page 2

By creating a unique procedure for consideration of retaliation complaints, which vests final decision-making authority for complaints filed with the employer and the State Personnel Board within the judicial branch, AB 1749 clearly acknowledges that an independent co-equal branch of government must have independent authority to oversee its employees.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1749.

Sincerely,

Tracy Kenny

Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee

Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal, Member of the Assembly

Ms. Kathy Banuelos, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee

Ms. Kirsten Kolpitcke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy



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RONALD G. OVERHOLT Chief Deputy Director

CURTIS L. CHILD

Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

August 11, 2010

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor of California State Capitol, First Floor Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 1749 (Lowenthal) - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1749 (Lowenthal), which would bring employees of the judicial branch within the protections of the California Whistleblower Protection Act (CWPA), because it will promote transparency and accountability within the branch in a manner that appropriately acknowledges the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. AB 1749 will ensure that all branch employees can safely report improper governmental activity without fear of reprisal. One of the primary objectives of the CWPA is to promote efficiency in government and deter public entities from engaging in economically wasteful activity. The courts and the AOC are entrusted with a significant share of state taxpayer dollars, and it is appropriate that judicial branch entities are held accountable for their expenditure of those funds in a manner analogous to the other branches. AB 1749 will promote that result and ensure that there is no appearance that judicial branch expenditures are lacking in accountability or transparency.

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Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger August 11, 2010 Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 1749.

Sincerely,

Tracy Kenny

Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Bonnie Lowenthal, Member of the Assembly

Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Ms. Kirsten Kolpitcke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research



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RONALD G. OVERHOLT Chief Deputy Director

CURTIS L. CHILD Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

April 15, 2010

Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal Member of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 5158 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 1749 (Lowenthal), as amended April 5, 2010 – Support

Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee - April 20, 2010

Dear Assembly Member Lowenthal:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1749 (Lowenthal), which would bring employees of the judicial branch within the protections of the California Whistleblower Protection Act (CWPA), because it will promote transparency and accountability within the branch in a manner that appropriately acknowledges the integrity and independence of the judicial branch. As recently amended, AB 1749 will ensure that all branch employees can safely report improper governmental activity without fear of reprisal. One of the primary objectives of the CWPA is to promote efficiency in government and deter public entities from engaging in economically wasteful activity. The courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts are entrusted with a significant share of state taxpayer dollars, and it is appropriate that judicial branch entities are held accountable for their expenditure of those funds in a manner analogous to the other branches. AB 1749 will promote that result and ensure that there is no appearance that judicial branch expenditures are lacking in accountability or transparency.

Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal April 15, 2010 Page 2

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For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1749.

Sincerely,

Tracy Kenny

Attorney

TK/yt/lmb

cc: Ms. Kirsten Kolpitcke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor