



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

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
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

March 4, 2011

Hon. Mike Feuer, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2013
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced – Support
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – March 15, 2011

Dear Assembly Member Feuer:

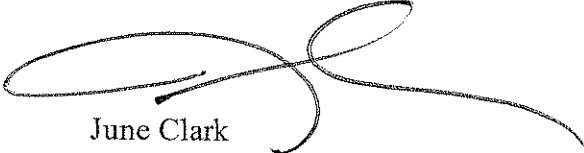
The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may indeed cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, the statutory clarification that violators may be held in contempt of court is also important, and would provide the court with necessary enforcement tools for use in appropriate cases.

Hon. Mike Feuer
March 4, 2011
Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a small upward flick.

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly
Mr. Drew Liebert, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Mr. Mark Redmond, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Mr. Gareth Elliott, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Kirsten Kolpitzke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

March 28, 2011

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced - Support
Hearing: Assembly Appropriations Committee – April 6, 2011

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

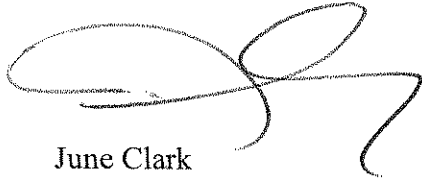
The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may indeed cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, the statutory clarification that violators may be held in contempt of court is also important, and would provide the court with necessary enforcement tools for use in appropriate cases.

Hon. Felipe Fuentes
March 28, 2011
Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a trailing line.

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly

Mr. Chuck Nicol, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

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

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

Mr. Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office



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

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
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

March 29, 2011

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced – Fiscal Impact Statement
Hearing: Assembly Appropriations Committee – April 6, 2011

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

AB 141 requires a court, when admonishing the jury against conversation, research, or dissemination of information on any subject of the trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of electronic and wireless communication. This measure also requires the officer in charge of a jury to prevent any form of electronic or wireless communication. AB 141 makes the willful disobedience by a juror of a court's admonishment related to communication or research about the trial punishable as either civil or criminal contempt of court.

Fiscal Impact

Because existing law broadly covers the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, this bill in effect merely clarifies the statutory directive that the admonition must address this issue, including the possible penalty of contempt of court for juror misconduct. Consequently, enactment of AB 141 is not expected to result in any measurable fiscal impact on the courts existing workload or resources.

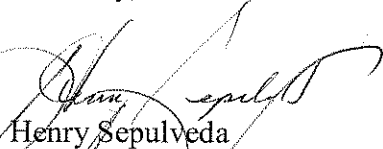
Hon. Felipe Fuentes

March 29, 2011

Page 2

Please contact me at 916-323-3121 or henry.sepulveda@jud.ca.gov if you would like further information or have any questions about the fiscal impact of this legislation on the judicial branch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Sepulveda", is written over the printed name.

Henry Sepulveda
Senior Governmental Affairs Analyst

HS/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Mr. Greg Wesley, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Fuentes

Mr. Chuck Nicol, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Mr. Eric Swanson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office

Mr. Michael Miyao, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

June 1, 2011

Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced - Support
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – June 7, 2011

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may indeed cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, the statutory clarification that violators may be held in contempt of court is also important, and would provide the court with necessary enforcement tools for use in appropriate cases.

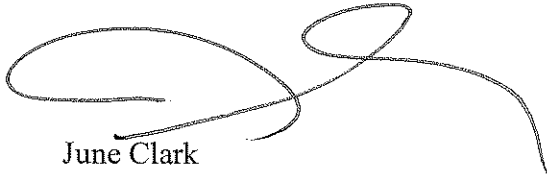
Hon. Loni Hancock

June 1, 2011

Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly

Ms. Mary Kennedy, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee

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

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

Mr. Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

June 13, 2011

Hon. Noreen Evans, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 4034
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced - Support
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – June 21, 2011

Dear Senator Evans:

The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may indeed cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, the statutory clarification that violators may be held in contempt of court is also important, and would provide the court with necessary enforcement tools for use in appropriate cases.

Hon. Noreen Evans

June 13, 2011

Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'June Clark', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'C'.

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly

Ms. Ronak Daylami, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee

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

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

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



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

July 7, 2011

Hon. Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 141 (Fuentes), as introduced - Support
Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee – July 11, 2011

Dear Senator Kehoe:

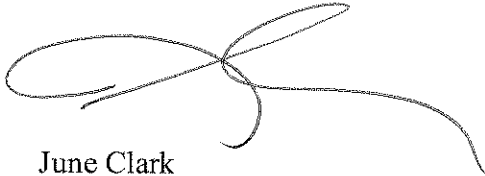
The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may indeed cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, the statutory clarification that violators may be held in contempt of court is also important, and would provide the court with necessary enforcement tools for use in appropriate cases.

Hon. Christine Kehoe
July 7, 2011
Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'June Clark', with a large, stylized loop and a long, sweeping tail.

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly

Ms. Jolie Onodera, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee

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

Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3358

Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
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

July 27, 2011

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

Subject: Assembly Bill 141 (Fuentes) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council supports AB 141, which requires the court, when admonishing the jury against conversing about a trial, to clearly explain, as part of the admonishment, that the prohibition applies to all forms of communication, research, and dissemination of information, including electronic and wireless devices. The bill also provides that violation of this admonishment constitutes criminal and civil contempt of court.

The council is extremely concerned that jurors' use of electronic devices during the course of a trial is becoming an increasingly significant threat to the integrity of the justice system. While existing law may cover the improper use of electronic communications by jurors, the council believes a clear statutory directive that the admonishments include modern technological means of communication is needed. In addition, given the importance of the admonition, express statutory authority to hold violators in contempt of court is a critical tool for use in appropriate cases.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 141.

Sincerely,

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/lp

cc: Hon. Felipe Fuentes, Member of the Assembly
Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor