



## Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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May 31, 2012

Hon. Lois Wolk, Chair  
Senate Governance & Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2299 (Feuer), as amended May 3, 2012 - Support  
Hearing: Senate Governance & Finance Committee – June 13, 2012

Dear Senator Wolk:

The Judicial Council supports AB 2299, which authorizes the board of supervisors of a county to establish a program whereby the names of certain public safety officials, including judges and subordinate judicial officers, may be redacted upon request from any property record of principal residence that is disclosed to the public by that county.

The council supports AB 2299 because it will protect the confidentiality of judges' address information and thereby promote their safety and security. Support for such legislation has been a long-standing council policy and is necessary to maintaining an independent judiciary. Public access to home address information poses a threat to judges and other public safety officials and their families. An independent judiciary depends on a judge being able to make decisions free from fear of retribution. This bill would provide public safety officials with an important tool to assist in protecting their family's privacy and safety.

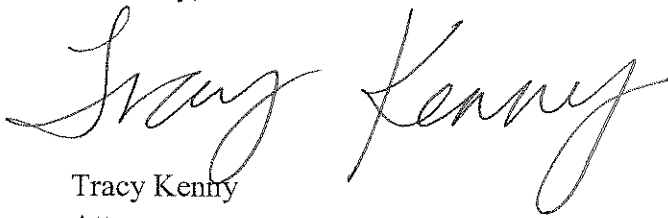
AB 2299 will give each county a means to address home address information contained in local property records in a manner that is best suited to their local needs and will thereby heighten the ability of judges to ensure that this information does not become

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available to the broader public. Judge James Brandlin, who is the chair of the Judges Security Committee for the Los Angeles Superior Court has brought to our attention the fact that there are documented cases in which a suspect obtained the home address of a judge from the office of the county assessor. Such cases demonstrate the need for counties to have better tools to protect this critically sensitive information to ensure that the safety of judicial officers is not compromised.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 2299.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tracy Kenney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tracy Kenney  
Attorney

TK/yc

cc: Members, Senate Governance & Finance Committee

Hon. Mike Feuer, Member of the Assembly

Ms. Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Governance & Finance Committee

Mr. Gareth Elliott, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy