



## Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3358

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

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE

*Chief Justice of California*

*Chair of the Judicial Council*

JODY PATEL

*Interim Administrative Director of the Courts*

CURT SODERLUND

*Interim Chief Deputy Director*

CURTIS L. CHILD

*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

April 17, 2012

Hon. Martin Garrick  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2158  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2501 (Garrick), as amended March 29, 2012 – Oppose

Hearing: Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee – April 24, 2012

Dear Assembly Member Garrick:

The Judicial Council regrets it must oppose AB 2501, which requires the Supreme Court, by January 1, 2025, to move its location to the Sacramento metropolitan area and only hear cases in this location and also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), along with all state agencies, departments, and other state entities under the direction of a constitutional officer to move its primary administrative office to the Sacramento metropolitan area.

The Supreme Court hears oral argument four times each year in Los Angeles, twice per year in Sacramento, and five times per year in San Francisco. One of the Sacramento or Los Angeles oral arguments is often relocated to a more remote location when the court conducts educational outreach sessions for high school students and others in the community. (Oral arguments are currently not being conducted in Sacramento while the court completes the renovation of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building.)

Although the language of the bill implies that it is only limiting the locations in which oral arguments may be heard, according to your staff, the intent is to prohibit the court from having locations outside of the Sacramento metropolitan area. It should be noted that the Supreme Court is not the sole user of the San Francisco and Los Angeles courtrooms that would be vacated. The courtroom in which the Supreme Court hears oral argument in San Francisco is shared by the First District Court of Appeal. The courtroom in which oral argument is heard in Los Angeles is shared by the Second District Court of Appeal. If the Supreme Court vacates the building, the courts of appeal would continue to need to rent the space from the state (as these are both located in state owned office buildings). However, because the space the Supreme Court shares with the Third District Court of Appeal is not sufficient to accommodate the court, the justices, or the staff on a permanent basis, new space will need to be located and renovated extensively in Sacramento to meet the court's needs.

Furthermore, there is significant value to the public in the Supreme Court conducting sessions around the state and conducting the educational session it typically does annually. Local bars, practitioners, and local communities have expressed the importance of bringing the high court to them. Although the cases heard in locations outside San Francisco may or may not involve local practitioners, the opportunity to witness oral arguments and in that way play a role in precedential cases is invaluable. Additionally, the educational sessions conducted at or near local high schools with opportunities for high school students to attend and ask questions of the justices provide incredible exposure to the legal profession that these youths may have never envisioned, and shapes them in ways that cannot be quantified.

The AOC has found that having offices in Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Francisco has enabled the agency to hire quality staff. Lawyers in the Office of the General Counsel, for example, are primarily located in San Francisco, but several are located in Sacramento and Burbank. This flexibility has broadened the applicant pool to the benefit of the agency and the branch. AB 2501 would limit the applicant pool to individuals who reside or are willing to relocate to the Sacramento area. It is unknown whether the move from the state-owned Hiram Johnson State Office Building where the AOC pays rent to the State, to an unidentified building in the Sacramento metropolitan area that may be state or privately owned would be less expensive, or whether the real estate market would even have sufficient inventory to be able to accommodate every state entity required to relocate under the terms of AB 2501. Potentially, the captive market will lead to increased commercial rents, as building owners will know that state entities have no option but to locate in the Sacramento area.

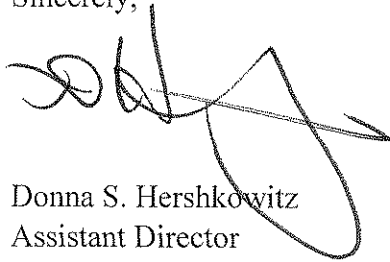
Finally, as drafted, it appears that the bill would also require the administrative office of each trial court, as a "state entity under the direction of a constitutional officer" to locate to the Sacramento metropolitan area. The bill clearly allows the rest of the court to remain in its current location, as the court requires direct public interaction to carry out its functions.

Hon. Martin Garrick  
April 17, 2012  
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However, by requiring the trial courts to move to administrative offices to Sacramento, and maintain an additional offsite location would impose greater costs, not reduced costs.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes AB 2501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna S. Hershkowitz', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Donna S. Hershkowitz  
Assistant Director

DSH/lmb

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



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*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

April 17, 2012

Hon. Mary Hayashi, Chair

Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee

State Capitol, Room 3013

Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2501 (Garrick), as amended March 29, 2012 – Oppose

Hearing: Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee – April 24, 2012

Dear Assembly Member Hayashi:

The Judicial Council opposes AB 2501, which requires the Supreme Court, by January 1, 2025, to move its location to the Sacramento metropolitan area and only hear cases in this location and also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), along with all state agencies, departments, and other state entities under the direction of a constitutional officer to move its primary administrative office to the Sacramento metropolitan area.

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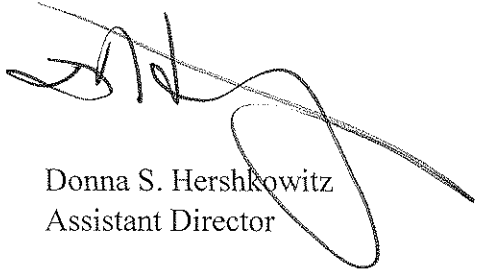
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However, by requiring the trial courts to move to administrative offices to Sacramento, and maintain an additional offsite location would impose greater costs, not reduced costs.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes AB 2501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DSH', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Donna S. Hershkowitz  
Assistant Director

DSH/lmb

cc: Members, Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee

Hon. Martin Garrick, Member of the Assembly

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

Ms. Joanna Gin, Consultant, Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee

Mr. Ted Blanchard, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy