



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 28, 2006

Hon. Dave Jones, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 3126
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2301 (Assembly Judiciary Committee), as introduced - Support
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – April 4, 2006

Dear Assembly Member Jones:

I am pleased to inform you that the Judicial Council is in support of AB 2301, which would provide the State Bar with the authority to collect voluntary financial support from its membership to support organizations that provide free legal services to those of limited means.

The Judicial Council supports AB 2301 because it will improve access to justice for the poor by increasing the resources available to legal services organizations. The council has been a strong advocate for enhanced legal services funding, most notably through its support for the creation of the Equal Access Fund (EAF), as well as ongoing efforts to secure additional funding for the EAF from the General Fund and through civil filing fees. Many Californians cannot afford legal representation and are unable to obtain appropriate relief because existing legal services resources are not adequate to meet the demand for those services. The council is seeking to improve the availability of resources for self-represented litigants to proceed on their own, but there are many litigants whose cases are too complex for self-representation to be effective.

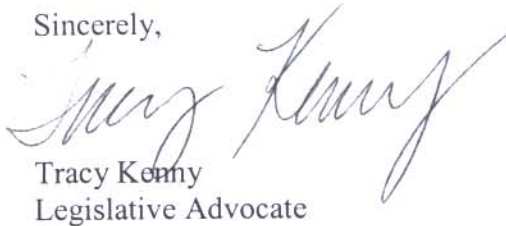
AB 2301 will provide State Bar members with an easy and efficient mechanism to contribute to legal services programs through their annual dues. Because attorneys have a professional responsibility to help meet the legal needs of the poor, it is appropriate to seek financial support for these organizations in this way. Moreover, because any contribution would be voluntary on

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the part of the member, no financial burden would be placed on an attorney who is unwilling or unable to contribute.

For these reasons the Judicial Council supports AB 2301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracy Kenney".

Tracy Kenney
Legislative Advocate

TK/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Mr. Kevin Baker, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Mr. Eric Cszimar, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Sue Blake, Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research
Mr. Mark Redmond, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy