



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

### GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3368  
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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE  
*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Governmental Affairs*

April 14, 2015

Hon. Richard Roth  
Member of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4034  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Jeff E. Stone  
Member of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4062  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Jay P. Obernolte  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4116  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 229 (Roth), as amended March 23, 2015 – Sponsor  
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – April 21, 2015

Dear Senator Roth, Senator Stone and Assemblymember Obernolte:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor SB 229, which will provide funding to establish ten of the 50 new judgeships, and associated staff, authorized by AB 159 (Stats. 2007, Ch. 722), and thanks you for authoring the bill. California is suffering from a severe shortage of judgeships. The ramifications are serious and far-reaching, and include a significant decrease in Californians' access to the courts and ability to get critical matters heard; compromised public safety; an unstable business climate; and, in some courts, enormous backlogs that inhibit fair, timely, and equitable justice.

Hon. Richard Roth  
Hon. Jeff E. Stone  
Hon. Jay P. Obernolte  
April 14, 2015  
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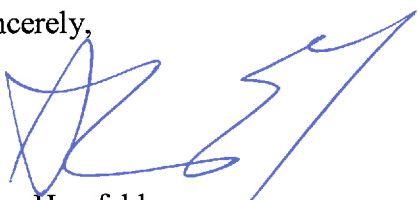
These 50 judgeships authorized by AB 159 were intended to be the second set of 50 judgeships over three years, creating 150 critically needed new judgeships to help alleviate judicial workload and improve trial court efficiency statewide. Due to the severe budgetary limitations since then, the AB 159 judgeships were never funded, and remain unfunded today. Since 2007, judicial workloads around the state have only increased, and access to justice has been severely limited by the lack of new judgeships, especially in counties with the highest population growth.

The consequences of a judicial shortage are acute and significant for the people of California. Access to the courts is a right of every Californian, and that right becomes hollow if disputes cannot be resolved by the courts in an expeditious manner. The current gap between the caseload and the number of judges available to hear those cases means that critical civil proceedings and family law hearings must be repeatedly rescheduled resulting in long delays from the time of filing to the time of trial. This culture of delay keeps parents, children, victims, and defendants in limbo. Without resolution in their cases, many litigants suffer economic and emotional harm, while others may simply conclude that the courts are not available to assist them.

SB 229 is the first step towards relieving the strain on our most overburdened courts. Should it be passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, three new judgeships will be created in each of the two counties most severely impacted by the judicial workload crisis, with the remaining four spread among the next group of impacted courts. It is critical to the reduction in wait times and the ability of the courts to provide meaningful access to justice to the people of California that judicial workloads be kept at a manageable level. SB 229 will take the first step towards accomplishing these goals.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council thanks you for your leadership, and is pleased to sponsor SB 229.

Sincerely,



Alan Herzfeld  
Associate Attorney

ANH/yc-s

cc: Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor



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*Administrative Director*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Governmental Affairs*

April 14, 2015

Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 229 (Roth), as amended March 23, 2015 – Sponsor  
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – April 21, 2015

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor SB 229, which will provide funding to establish ten of the 50 new judgeships, and associated staff, authorized by AB 159 (Stats. 2007, Ch. 722). California is suffering from a severe shortage of judgeships. The ramifications are serious and far-reaching, and include a significant decrease in Californians' access to the courts and ability to get critical matters heard; compromised public safety; an unstable business climate; and, in some courts, enormous backlogs that inhibit fair, timely, and equitable justice.

These 50 judgeships authorized by AB 159 were intended to be the second set of 50 judgeships over three years, creating 150 critically needed new judgeships to help alleviate judicial workload and improve trial court efficiency statewide. Due to the severe budgetary limitations since then, the AB 159 judgeships were never funded, and remain unfunded today. Since 2007, judicial workloads around the state have only increased, and access to justice has been severely limited by the lack of new judgeships, especially in counties with the highest population growth.

The consequences of a judicial shortage are acute and significant for the people of California. Access to the courts is a right of every Californian, and that right becomes hollow if disputes cannot be resolved by the courts in an expeditious manner. The current gap between the caseload

Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson

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and the number of judges available to hear those cases means that critical civil proceedings and family law hearings must be repeatedly rescheduled resulting in long delays from the time of filing to the time of trial. This culture of delay keeps parents, children, victims, and defendants in limbo. Without resolution in their cases, many litigants suffer economic and emotional harm, while others may simply conclude that the courts are not available to assist them.

SB 229 is the first step towards relieving the strain on our most overburdened courts. Should it be passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, three new judgeships will be created in each of the two counties most severely impacted by the judicial workload crisis, with the remaining four spread among the next group of impacted courts. It is critical to the reduction in wait times and the ability of the courts to provide meaningful access to justice to the people of California that judicial workloads be kept at a manageable level. SB 229 will take the first step towards accomplishing these goals.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring SB 229.

Sincerely,



Alan Herzfeld  
Associate Attorney

ANH/yc-s

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jeff E. Stone, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jay P. Obernolte, Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Benjamin Palmer, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor



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*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Governmental Affairs*

June 19, 2015

Hon. Mark Stone, Chair  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5155  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 229 (Roth), as amended June 2, 2015 – Sponsor  
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – June 23, 2015

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor SB 229, which will provide funding to establish six of the 50 new judgeships, and associated staff, authorized by AB 159 (Stats. 2007, ch. 722). California is suffering from a severe shortage of judgeships. The ramifications are serious and far-reaching, and include a significant decrease in Californians' access to the courts and ability to get critical matters heard; compromised public safety; an unstable business climate; and, in some courts, enormous backlogs that inhibit fair, timely, and equitable justice.

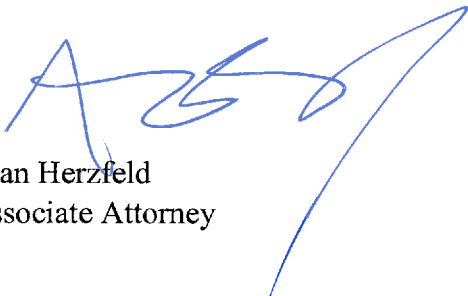
These 50 judgeships authorized by AB 159 were intended to be the second set of 50 judgeships over three years, creating 150 critically needed new judgeships to help alleviate judicial workload and improve trial court efficiency statewide. Due to the severe budgetary limitations since then, the AB 159 judgeships were never funded, and remain unfunded today. Since 2007, judicial workloads around the state have only increased, and access to justice has been severely limited by the lack of new judgeships, especially in counties with the highest population growth.

The consequences of a judicial shortage are acute and significant for the people of California. Access to the courts is a right of every Californian, and that right becomes hollow if disputes cannot be resolved by the courts in an expeditious manner. The current gap between the caseload and the number of judges available to hear those cases means that critical civil proceedings and family law hearings must be repeatedly rescheduled resulting in long delays from the time of filing to the time of trial. This culture of delay keeps parents, children, victims, and defendants in limbo. Without resolution in their cases, many litigants suffer economic and emotional harm, while others may simply conclude that the courts are not available to assist them.

SB 229 is the first step towards relieving the strain on our most overburdened courts. Should it be passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, two new judgeships will be created in each of the two counties most severely impacted by the judicial workload crisis, with the remaining two going to other highly impacted courts. It is critical to the reduction in wait times and the ability of the courts to provide meaningful access to justice to the people of California that judicial workloads be kept at a manageable level. SB 229 will take the first step towards accomplishing these goals.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring SB 229.

Sincerely,



Alan Herzfeld  
Associate Attorney

ANH/yc-s

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jeff E. Stone, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jay P. Obernolte, Member of the Assembly  
Ms. Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Mr. Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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

MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*

September 15, 2015

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

Subject: Senate Bill 229 (Roth) — Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council of California is the sponsor of SB 229, which will provide funding to establish 12 of the 50 new judgeships, and associated staff, authorized by Assembly Bill 159 (Stats. 2007, ch. 722), and requests your signature on this important legislation. California is suffering from a shortage of judgeships. The ramifications are serious and far-reaching, and include an ongoing decrease in Californians' access to the courts and ability to get critical matters heard; compromised public safety; an unstable business climate; and, in the courts that will benefit from the judgeships, excessive caseloads that inhibit fair, timely, and equitable justice.

The judgeships authorized by AB 159 were the second set of 50 judgeships over three years, creating a total of 150 critically needed new judgeships to help alleviate judicial workload burdens and improve trial court efficiency statewide. Due to budgetary limitations since then, the AB 159 judgeships, although authorized by statute, were not funded; they remain unfunded today. Since the enactment of AB 159, judicial workloads, particularly in several courts that have experienced significant growth in population and filings in the past decade, have increased commensurately. The result has been that access to justice is severely limited by the lack of new judgeships combined with the associated staffing component.

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Based on workload assessment calculations which include both the numbers of filings and the relative weights of the different kinds of filings, the judicial needs in the counties in which the SB 229 judges will be allocated is significant.

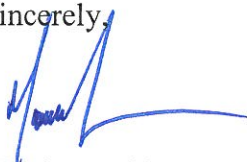
- San Bernardino would receive 4 of the 12 judgeships (court needs 57 over current)
- Riverside would receive 3 (needs 51)
- Los Angeles would receive 1 (needs 44)
- Kern would receive 1 (needs 15)
- Fresno would receive 1 (needs 12)
- Stanislaus would receive 1 (needs 9)
- San Joaquin would receive 1 (needs 9)

In percentage terms, the associated deficits in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties are both 45% below what is needed. The consequences of such a shortfall are acute and significant for the Californians in the affected counties. The existing gaps between caseloads and the number of judges available to hear those cases may mean, for example, that critical civil proceedings and family law hearings must be repeatedly rescheduled resulting in long delays from the time of filing to the time of trial, keeping parents, children, victims, and defendants in limbo. Without resolution in their cases, many litigants suffer economic and emotional harm, while others may simply conclude that the courts are not available to assist them.

SB 229 is an important step toward relieving the strain on our most overburdened courts.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on SB 229.

Sincerely,



Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

MH/CJ/ANH/yc-s

cc: Hon. Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jeff E. Stone, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jay P. Obernolte, Member of the Assembly  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Cory T. Jasperson, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council