



**Judicial Council of California**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

OFFICE OF 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*

STEVEN JAHR  
*Administrative Director of the Courts*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

March 18, 2013

Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 648 (Jones-Sawyer), as introduced – Support/Sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Judicial Council supports and is sponsoring AB 648, which will clean up legislation enacted last year to add a \$30 court reporter fee for civil proceedings lasting less than one hour in order to clarify, among other things, what proceedings the fee applies to, how the fee is collected, and how the fee is allocated.

Last year, budget trailer bill, SB 1021 (Stats. 2012, ch. 41), enacted a \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting less than one hour. Unfortunately, the language enacting this fee was unclear as to a number of points and has thus been difficult for the trial courts to implement. Therefore, the Judicial Council is sponsoring AB 648, which makes necessary amendments in order to delineate how the fee is to be implemented.

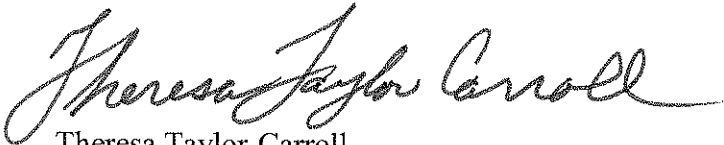
Specifically, AB 648 (1) clarifies that the fee is for proceedings lasting one hour or less, (2) clarifies that the moving party is responsible for paying the fee, (3) authorizes the court to collect the fee at the time the party files the papers that result in the scheduled hearing, (4) specifies that the fee is refundable only if the court fails to provide a court reporter at the scheduled hearing (if the parties take the matter off calendar, the fee does not get refunded), and (5) states that the fee is to be deposited into the collecting court's Trial Court Trust Fund, to be allocated back to the trial court dollar for dollar. This final provision ensures that the courts providing court reporters in civil proceeding lasting one hour or less get to keep the fees to offset their costs associated with supplying court reporters.

Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
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AB 648 will clarify the budget trailer bill language that created the new \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting one hour or less, will streamline procedures and create sufficient flexibility and guidance for the courts and for litigants on how this new fee will be assessed.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting AB 648.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Taylor Carroll". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Theresa" being the most prominent.

Theresa Taylor-Carroll  
Assistant Director

TTC/KN/lmb

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



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April 9, 2013

Hon. Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4016  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 648 (Jones-Sawyer), as introduced – Support/Sponsor  
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – April 16, 2013

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Judicial Council supports and is sponsoring AB 648, which will clean up legislation enacted last year to add a \$30 court reporter fee for civil proceedings lasting less than one hour in order to clarify, among other things, what proceedings the fee applies to, how the fee is collected, and how the fee is allocated.

Last year, budget trailer bill, SB 1021 (Stats. 2012, ch. 41), enacted a \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting less than one hour. Unfortunately, the language enacting this fee was unclear as to a number of points and has thus been difficult for the trial courts to implement. Therefore, the Judicial Council is sponsoring AB 648, which makes necessary amendments in order to delineate how the fee is to be implemented.

Specifically, AB 648 (1) clarifies that the fee is for proceedings lasting one hour or less, (2) clarifies that the moving party is responsible for paying the fee, (3) authorizes the court to collect the fee at the time the party files the papers that result in the scheduled hearing, (4) specifies that the fee is refundable only if the court fails to provide a court reporter at the scheduled hearing (if the parties take the matter off calendar, the fee does not get refunded), and (5) states that the fee

Hon. Bob Wieckowski  
April 9, 2013  
Page 2

is to be deposited into the collecting court's Trial Court Trust Fund, to be allocated back to the trial court dollar for dollar. This final provision ensures that the courts providing court reporters in civil proceeding lasting one hour or less get to keep the fees to offset their costs associated with supplying court reporters.

AB 648 will clarify the budget trailer bill language that created the new \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting one hour or less, will streamline procedures and create sufficient flexibility and guidance for the courts and for litigants on how this new fee will be assessed.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting AB 648.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Taylor-Carroll".

Theresa Taylor-Carroll  
Assistant Director

TTC/KN

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Anthony Lew, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy



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*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

July 16, 2013

Hon. Kevin de León, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5108  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 648 (Jones-Sawyer), as amended June 24, 2013 – Support/Sponsor and Fiscal Impact Statement

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee – August 12, 2013

Dear Senator de León:

The Judicial Council supports and is sponsoring AB 648, which will clean up legislation enacted last year to add a \$30 court reporter fee for civil proceedings lasting one hour or less in order to clarify, among other things, what proceedings the fee applies to, how the fee is collected, and how the fee is allocated. And, because AB 648 merely clarifies what is already in existing law, it will not have a negative fiscal impact on the trial courts.

Last year, budget trailer bill, SB 1021 (Stats. 2012, ch. 41), enacted a \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting less than one hour. Unfortunately, the language enacting this fee was unclear as to a number of points and has thus been difficult for the trial courts to implement. Therefore, the Judicial Council is sponsoring AB 648, which makes necessary amendments in order to clarify how the fee is to be implemented.

AB 648 specifies that only courts providing a court reporter in civil proceeding lasting one hour or less may charge the \$30 fee. This ensures that the fee is used only to cover the reasonable costs of court reporter services. In addition, AB 648 (1) clarifies that the fee is for proceedings lasting one hour or less, (2) clarifies that the moving party is responsible for paying the fee, (3)

authorizes the court to collect the fee at a time specified by the court, but not later than the conclusion of each day's court session, (4) specifies that the fee is refundable only if the court fails to provide a court reporter at the scheduled hearing, (5) specifies that the fee will be charged once per case for all proceedings conducted within the same hour, (6) states that the fee shall be waived for parties that have been granted a fee waiver, and (7) provides that the fee be deposited into the Trial Court Trust Fund, and then returned dollar for dollar to the court in which the funds were collected. This final provision ensures that the courts providing court reporters in civil proceeding lasting one hour or less get to keep the fees they collect in order to offset their costs associated with supplying court reporters.

AB 648 will clarify the budget trailer bill language that created the new \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting one hour or less, will streamline procedures and create sufficient flexibility and guidance for the courts and for litigants on how this new fee will be assessed. For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting AB 648.

Sincerely,

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

Cory T. Jasperson  
Director

CTJ/KN/lmb

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Member of the Assembly  
Ms. Jolie Onodera, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Matt Osterli, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Ms. Ronak Daylami, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Madelynn McClain, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance



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*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

September 18, 2013

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

Re: Assembly Bill 648 (Jones-Sawyer), as amended September 6, 2013—Support/Sponsor

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 648 relative to court reporter fees. Last year, Senate Bill 1021 (Stats. 2012, ch. 41; a budget trailer bill) enacted a \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting less than one hour. Unfortunately, the language enacting this fee was unclear on several points and has thus been difficult for the trial courts to implement. Therefore, the Judicial Council is sponsoring AB 648, which makes necessary amendments to clarify how the fee is to be implemented.

AB 648 provides that only courts providing a court reporter in the specified civil proceedings may charge the \$30 fee. This limit ensures that the fee is used only to cover the reasonable costs of court reporter services. In addition, AB 648 (1) clarifies that the fee is for proceedings lasting one hour or less; (2) clarifies that the moving party is responsible for paying the fee; (3) authorizes the court to collect the fee at a time specified by the court, but not later than the conclusion of each day's court session; (4) specifies that the fee is refundable only if the court fails to provide a court reporter at the scheduled hearing; (5) specifies that the fee will be charged once per case for all proceedings conducted within the same hour; (6) states that the fee shall be waived for parties that have been granted a fee waiver; and (7) provides that the fee be deposited


into the Trial Court Trust Fund and then returned dollar for dollar to the court in which the fee was collected. This final provision (also included in the Courts budget trailer bill this year, SB 75 (Stats. 2013, ch. 31)) ensures that the courts providing court reporters in civil proceedings lasting one hour or less keep the funds they collect to offset their costs associated with supplying court reporters.

AB 648 will clarify the budget trailer bill language that created the new \$30 fee for court reporter services in civil proceedings lasting one hour or less and will streamline procedures and create sufficient flexibility and guidance for the courts and for litigants on how this new fee will be assessed.

AB 648 will have no negative fiscal impact on the trial courts. Indeed, it will generate revenue for courts by clarifying procedures that improve the ease and likelihood of collection of revenue from this new source.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council respectfully requests your signature on Assembly Bill 648.

Sincerely,

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

Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director

CTJ/NT/lb

cc: June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Madelynn McClain, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance