



**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*

April 24, 2014

Hon. Tom Ammiano, Chair  
Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3146  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2487 (Wagner), as amended April 22, 2014 – Support/Sponsor  
Hearing: Assembly Public Safety Committee – April 29, 2014

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support and is sponsor AB 2487, which increases the efficiency of traffic courts by amending Vehicle Code section 40902 to require defendant accused of most Vehicle Code infractions to choose either a trial by written declaration or a hearing, but not both.

Under existing law a defendant charged with a Vehicle Code infraction may elect to have a trial by written declaration on the alleged infraction, with the exception of drug and alcohol infractions (Veh. Code § 40310). If the defendant is dissatisfied with a decision of the court in that proceeding the defendant is entitled to a “trial de novo” or trial before a Traffic Court, which results in a waste of court resources. In some counties, a trial de novo is requested in 40 to 50 percent of cases where the defendant has not prevailed on the written declaration. Rather than providing a convenient way for a traffic violator who lives an impractical or inconvenient distance from the court to contest matters, the process is being used to give traffic violators a second bite at the apple to win a case.

AB 2487 increases the efficiency of traffic courts by amending Vehicle Code section 40902 to require defendant accused of most Vehicle Code infractions to choose either a trial by written declaration or a hearing, but not both.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to support and sponsor AB 2487.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Reilly".

Sharon Reilly  
Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy



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June 4, 2014

Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair  
Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2487 (Wagner), as amended April 22, 2014 – Support/Sponsor  
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – June 17, 2014

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support and sponsor AB 2487, which increases the efficiency of traffic courts by amending Vehicle Code section 40902 to require a defendant accused of most Vehicle Code infractions to choose either a trial by written declaration or a hearing, but not both.

Under existing law, a defendant charged with a Vehicle Code infraction may elect to have a trial by written declaration on the alleged infraction, with the exception of drug and alcohol infractions (Veh. Code § 40310). If the defendant is dissatisfied with a decision of the court in that proceeding, the defendant is entitled to a “trial de novo” or trial before a Traffic Court, which results in a waste of court resources. In some counties, a trial de novo is requested in 40 to 50 percent of cases where the defendant has not prevailed on the written declaration. Rather than providing a convenient way for a traffic violator who lives an impractical or inconvenient distance from the court to contest matters, the process is being used to give traffic violators a second bite at the apple to win a case.

Hon. Loni Hancock

June 4, 2014

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AB 2487 increases the efficiency of traffic courts by amending Vehicle Code section 40902 to require defendants accused of most Vehicle Code infractions to choose either a trial by written declaration or a hearing, but not both.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to support and sponsor AB 2487.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" and last name "Reilly" clearly distinguishable.

Sharon Reilly  
Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, Member of the Assembly  
Ms. Mary Kennedy, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy