



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
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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 27, 2014

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

Subject: AB 2745 (Committee on Judiciary), as introduced – Support/Sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Wieckowski:

The Judicial Council supports and is sponsoring AB 2745. The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor the provision that authorizes the conversion of ten subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships in FY 2014-15 if those conversions result in judges being assigned to a family or juvenile law assignment previously heard by an SJO. The council supports the provision to impose more stringent requirements for case management in dissolution and nullity matters than those required by statute.

AB 2745 makes clear the legislative intent of setting a floor for case management in dissolution and nullity matters. The bill appropriately recognizes the Judicial Council's knowledge of and experience with these cases, and the levels of management they require, while setting a baseline that current rules of court already exceed.

Hon. Bob Wieckowski
March 27, 2014
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For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting AB 2745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Tantraphol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nina" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Tantraphol".

Nina Tantraphol
Judicial Administration Fellow

NMT/yc-s

cc: Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Leora Gershenzon, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee



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June 11, 2014

Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2745 (Committee on Judiciary), as introduced – Support/Sponsor
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – June 17, 2014

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor and support the subordinate judicial officer and case management provisions, respectively, of AB 2745. The Judicial Council is sponsoring the provision that authorizes the conversion of 10 subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships in FY 2014-15 if those conversions result in judges being assigned to a family or juvenile law assignment previously heard by an SJO.

The council supports the provision to impose more stringent requirements for case management in dissolution and nullity matters than those required by statute. AB 2745 makes clear the legislative intent of setting a floor for case management in dissolution and nullity matters. The bill appropriately recognizes the Judicial Council's knowledge of and experience with these cases, and the levels of management they require, while setting a baseline that current rules of court already exceed.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting AB 2745.

Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair
June 11, 2014
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Tantraphol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "N" and "T".

Nina Tantraphol
Judicial Administration Fellow

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hon. Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Ms. Nichole Rapier, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy



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

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director

CORY T. JASPERSON
Director, Governmental Affairs

August 22, 2014

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

Subject: AB 2745 (Committee on Judiciary) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor and support AB 2745.

The Judicial Council is sponsoring the provisions that authorize the conversion of 10 subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships in FY 2014-15 if those conversions result in judges being assigned to a family or juvenile law assignment previously heard by an SJO. Over the past few years, in the face of few or no new judgeships being created, courts have had to hire SJOs simply to meet the demands of the courts' workload. As a result, these SJOs have not simply been assigned to perform subordinate judicial duties, but in many cases they have been assigned as temporary judges, exercising the full power of judges, including in family law and juvenile law proceedings. The Judicial Council believes that family law and juvenile law proceedings, among the courts' most sensitive and often most complex, should be assigned to judges whenever possible. The conversion of SJO positions to judgeships, upon vacancy, will allow more of these crucial family and juvenile law cases to be heard by judges.

Additionally, the Judicial Council is sponsoring the sections of AB 2745 that update the statutory standards and criteria for allocating new judicial positions. This will give the council the flexibility to, upon allocation of funding, assign new judgeships where they are most needed, rather than according to the decade-old standards currently required by statute. This will allow the council to focus new judgeships where they will do the most good, using the most up-to-date data to provide our most overworked courts with additional resources, rather than using outdated criteria to distribute new judgeships around the state.

Finally, the council supports the provision to impose more stringent requirements for case management in dissolution and nullity matters than those required by statute. AB 2745 makes clear the legislative intent of setting a floor for case management in dissolution and nullity matters. The bill appropriately recognizes the Judicial Council's knowledge of and experience with these cases, and the levels of management they require, while setting a baseline that current rules of court already exceed.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 2745.

Sincerely,



Alan Herzfeld
Associate Attorney

cc: Hon. Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor