Judicial Council *of* California

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 · Sacramento, California 95814-4717

Telephone 916-323-3121 · Fax 916-323-4347

PATRICIA GUERRERO
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MICHELLE CURRAN
Administrative Director

June 17, 2026

Hon. Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 873 (Reyes), as amended June 15, 2026 – Support
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – June 23, 2026

Dear Assembly Member Kalra:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support Senate Bill 873 (Reyes), which prohibits a person traveling to or from, or while present at, a courthouse as defined for any lawful activity from being subject to civil arrest because it will provide protection for all Californians seeking access to the courts from the threat of civil arrest. In her most recent State of the Judiciary address to the Legislature, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero highlighted the challenges for the courts when federal entities seek to perform civil enforcement activities in our courthouses and noted that things have deteriorated since her speech in 2025:

> Last year, I also spoke about the considerable stress, anxiety, and confusion experienced by many Californians regarding federal immigration policies and enforcement as they intersect with our state courts. I also previously made clear that the federal government, of course, has the right and obligation to do its job but it should conduct its operations in a way that does not interfere with ours.
>
> Unfortunately, that has not happened. Public apprehension has continued to grow because of the way federal enforcement action has occurred—including the presence of federal officers in at least 17 of our state courthouses. These developments raise profound questions about access to justice, community trust, and the safety of individuals seeking legal remedies.

The Chief Justice went on to highlight the steps taken by the Judicial Council, including the

adoption of a new rule of court that requires courts to collect data on civil arrests. The council believes that SB 873 will build upon the efforts that we are already taking by requiring the council to report the information being gathered pursuant to rule 10.440 and as well as strengthening the longstanding common law privilege against civil arrest for those accessing the courts in its statutory form.

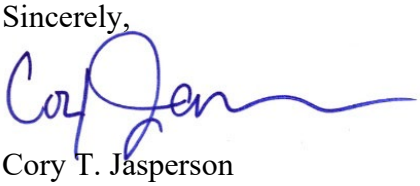
Preserving access to the courts is a cornerstone strategic goal for the council and SB 873 provides additional protection for members of the public who need access to the courts to ensure that exercising their rights and responsibilities under state law will not subject them to civil arrest and detention. As the Chief Justice highlighted in her address earlier in the year:

> [W]e can all perform our independent obligations consistent with our constitutional mandates in support of the rule of law, with our courts focusing on being available to everyone. We will continue to do everything within our power to ensure that all members of the public can freely access our state courts, to safeguard individual rights, and to promote the fair and timely administration of justice.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to support Senate Bill 873.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tracy Kenny at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jasperson
Director
Judicial Council Governmental Affairs

CTJ/TK
cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Hon. Eloise Gómez Reyes, Senator, 29th District
Rebecca Marcus, California Public Defenders Association
Brian Augusta, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Eddie Torres, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Tina Rosales-Torres, Western Center on Law and Poverty
Manuela Boucher, Deputy Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Liz Enea, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget
Matthew Fleming, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council