



# Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393  
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE  
*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

WILLIAM C. VICKREY  
*Administrative Director of the Courts*

RONALD G. OVERHOLT  
*Chief Deputy Director*

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD  
*Director, Office of Governmental Affairs*

July 7, 2006

Hon. Joseph Dunn, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2080  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2480 (Evans), as amended May 26, 2006 – Support if funded  
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – August 8, 2006

Dear Senator Dunn:

I am pleased to inform you that the Judicial Council is in support of AB 2480, which would require the appointment of appellate counsel to represent a dependent child if the child is an appellant, or if the court of appeal determines that the child would benefit from the appointment of separate counsel. The council recognizes that children in dependency proceedings have vital interests which may require the appointment of separate counsel in an appellate proceeding, provided that appropriate funding is provided to meet this important need. As the council implements the requirements of AB 2480, our Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno, will be examining the issue of appellate representation of dependent children as it examines a variety of issues confronting the juvenile dependency courts and the larger child welfare. The council looks forward to sharing the results and recommendations of that Commission with the Legislature once its work is complete.

Furthermore, the council supports the requirement in AB 2480 that a report be submitted to the Legislature regarding appropriate caseload standards for counsel for children at the trial court level. The council is currently midway through the Dependency Representation Administration Funding and Training (DRAFT) pilot program, which is intended to provide the council with better information on maximum and optimal caseload standards for court appointed counsel in dependency proceedings, as well as recommendations for achieving those standards statewide in

Hon. Joseph Dunn  
July 7, 2006  
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a cost-effective manner. As a result, the council will be well positioned to share its findings and recommendations by the January 1, 2008 deadline.

For these reasons the Judicial Council supports AB 2480 provided that the funding is provided to allow an expansion of appointment of counsel for dependent children in appellate proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tracy Kenny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Tracy" is written with a large, looped 'T' and the last name "Kenny" is written with a large, looped 'K'.

Tracy Kenny  
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Noreen Evans, Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Benjamin Palmer, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy  
Mr. Eric Csizmar, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Sue Blake, Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research



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June 1, 2006

Hon. Noreen Evans  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6025  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2480 (Evans), as amended May 26, 2006 – Support if funded

Dear Assembly Member Evans:

I am pleased to inform you that the Judicial Council is in support of AB 2480, which would require the appointment of appellate counsel to represent a dependent child if the child is an appellant, or if the court of appeal determines that the child would benefit from the appointment of separate counsel. The council recognizes that children in dependency proceedings have vital interests which may require the appointment of separate counsel in an appellate proceeding, provided that appropriate funding is provided to meet this important need. As the council implements the requirements of AB 2480, our Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno, will be examining the issue of appellate representation of dependent children as it examines a variety of issues confronting the juvenile dependency courts and the larger child welfare. The council looks forward to sharing the results and recommendations of that Commission with the Legislature once its work is complete.

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Tracy Kenny  
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Mr. Eric Csizmar, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Sue Blake, Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research