



## 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*

April 26, 2006

Hon. Sam Blakeslee  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5126  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2550 (Blakeslee) as amended April 20, 2006 – Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Blakeslee:

The Judicial Council opposes AB 2550, which expands an existing military privilege by exempting members of the National Guard who are not on active duty from jury duty in civil cases.

The Judicial Council opposes AB 2550, consistent with the council's long-standing policy on categorical exemptions from jury service. Statutorily exempting from jury duty broad categories of persons reduces the number of available jurors, makes it more difficult to select representative juries, and unfairly increases the burden of jury service on other segments of the population.

Furthermore, categorical exemptions are unnecessary because existing law and rules of court authorize courts to grant a hardship excuse in appropriate circumstances. Lack of transportation, personal obligation to provide care for another, and that the prospective juror's services are immediately needed for the protection of the public health and safety are all grounds constituting undue hardship under California Rules of Court, rule 860.

Hon. Sam Blakeslee

April 26, 2006

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For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes AB 2550.

Sincerely,

June Clark  
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: 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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August 9, 2006

Hon. Sam Blakeslee  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5126  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2550 (Blakeslee) as amended August 7, 2006 – Withdrawal of Opposition

Dear Assembly Member Blakeslee:

The August 7, 2006, amendments to AB 2550 resolve the Judicial Council's concerns regarding categorical exemptions of the National Guard who are not on active duty from jury duty in civil cases. Therefore, the council is pleased to inform you that we are withdrawing opposition to the bill.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

June Clark  
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: 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 20, 2006

Hon. Bill Morrow, Chair  
Member of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4048  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 2550 (Blakeslee) as amended May 15, 2006 – Oppose  
Hearing: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee – June 28, 2006

Dear Senator Morrow:

The Judicial Council opposes AB 2550, which expands an existing military privilege by exempting members of the National Guard who are not on active duty from jury duty in civil cases.

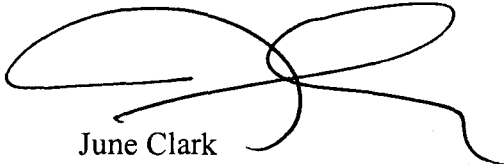
The Judicial Council opposes AB 2550, consistent with the council's long-standing policy on categorical exemptions from jury service. Statutorily exempting from jury duty broad categories of persons reduces the number of available jurors, makes it more difficult to select representative juries, and unfairly increases the burden of jury service on other segments of the population.

Furthermore, categorical exemptions are unnecessary because existing law and rules of court authorize courts to grant a hardship excuse in appropriate circumstances. Lack of transportation, personal obligation to provide care for another, and that the prospective juror's services are immediately needed for the protection of the public health and safety are all grounds constituting undue hardship under California Rules of Court, rule 860.

Hon. Bill Morrow  
June 20, 2006  
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For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes AB 2550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small downward stroke.

June Clark  
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
Hon. Sam Blakeslee, Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Donald Wilson, Consultant, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
Mr. Ryan Eisberg, 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