



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

September 8, 2005

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 874 (Romero) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Judicial Council supports SB 874, which prohibits a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a contractor employing more than 100 full time employees who does not have and adhere to a written policy annually providing employees with not less than five days of regular pay for actual jury service.

For the past decade, the Judicial Council has been working on jury reform, first through its blue ribbon commission and then through its Task Force on Jury System Improvements.

Selected accomplishments of these efforts include:

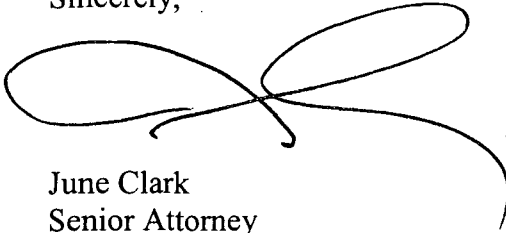
- Implementation of one-day or one-trial terms of jury service;
- First increase in jury fees since 1957;
- Requirement that jury commissioners apply standards for hardship excuses; and
- Development of a Model Juror Summons that is easier to understand and has consumer appeal.

SB 874 is consistent with the foregoing efforts. It imposes a reasonable obligation on employers that will result in fewer hardship requests, allowing more jurors to serve.

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger
September 8, 2005
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For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on SB 874.

Sincerely,

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

June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Consumer Attorneys of California
Hon. Gloria Romero, Member of Senate
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Sue Blake, Assistant Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research



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May 11, 2005

Honorable Carole Migden, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 874 (Romero), as amended May 2, 2005 - Support
Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee – May 16, 2005

Dear Senator Migden:

The Judicial Council supports SB 874, which prohibits a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a contractor who does not have and adhere to a written policy annually providing his or her full-time employees with not less than ten days of regular pay for actual jury service.

For the past decade, the Judicial Council has been working on jury reform, first through its blue ribbon commission and then through its Task Force on Jury System Improvements. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement consisted of 26 members representing the judicial, executive, and legislative branches, as well as the state bar, business community, and other interest groups. The commission's May 1996 report contained numerous recommendations to make the experience of the citizen juror less burdensome and more meaningful. The commission's Recommendation 2.1 proposed creation of a task force to oversee implementation of the commission's recommendations. The Judicial Council created the Task Force on Jury System Improvements, which began meeting in October 1998, and issued its final report in April 2003, which noted:

The overarching principle embedded in the commission recommendations and in the subsequent activities of the task force is that everyone should share responsibility for improving the jury system. The commission recommended sets of complementary proposals in which judges, jury commissioners, lawyers, employers, and jurors were all asked to contribute to jury system reform.

(*Final Report* of the Task Force on Jury System Improvement, 2003 Revised 2004)

Selected accomplishments of these efforts include:

- Implementation of one-day or one-trial terms of jury service;
- First increase in jury fees since 1957;
- Requirement that jury commissioners apply standards for hardship excuses; and
- Development of a Model Juror Summons that is easier to understand and has consumer appeal.

SB 874 is consistent with the foregoing efforts. It imposes a reasonable obligation on employers that will result in fewer hardship requests, allowing more jurors to serve.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports SB 874.

Sincerely,



June Clark
Senior Attorney

JC/yt

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Nancy Drabble, Consumer Attorneys of California
Lisa Matocq, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Doug Carlile, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy
Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Sue Blake, Assistant Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research