



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3368
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

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

April 18, 2014

Hon. Ricardo Lara
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 663 (Lara), as amended January 27, 2014 – Support provision relating to setting trial dates

Dear Senator Lara:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support the provision of SB 663, which requires that, in scheduling a trial date at an arraignment in superior court where the allegation is that the defendant committed a crime against a person with a developmental disability, courts make reasonable efforts to avoid setting that trial, when that case is assigned to a particular prosecuting attorney, on the same day that another case is set for trial involving the same prosecuting attorney.

The council believes that cases involving crimes against persons with developmental disabilities are very difficult, very sensitive, and much more challenging than other criminal cases. Thus, the council believes that it is reasonable to require courts to make reasonable efforts to avoid setting those trials on the same day that another case is set for trial involving the same prosecuting attorney. The council also notes that the population to which SB 663 applies is not so large that it would make it difficult for courts to make this accommodation. SB 663 also gives courts flexibility because it requires courts to make “reasonable efforts” to make this accommodation rather than requiring courts to do so in all instances.

Hon. Ricardo Lara
April 18, 2014
Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports that provision of SB 663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Reilly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon Reilly
Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor