



**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 22, 2014

Hon. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 1313 (Nielsen), as amended April 21, 2014—Sponsor/Support  
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – April 29, 2014

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Judicial Council supports and is sponsoring SB 1313, which promotes efficiency and flexibility in the superior courts by eliminating requirements impacting 14 enumerated courts to use court reporters in non-mandated case types. Senate Bill 1313 also deletes antiquated code sections enacted prior to both the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act, and the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997.

Under current law, court reporters are mandated in all criminal and juvenile cases across the state. However, the superior courts enumerated in SB 1313 are also required to provide court reporters in non-mandated case types, such as civil cases, limited civil cases, and coroners' inquests. Most significantly, the code sections to be repealed include outdated references to when the superior courts functioned as part of the county rather than as part of the state trial court system.

This proposal would eliminate the requirement that the enumerated courts use court reporters in non-mandated case types. Eliminating these requirements will allow the enumerated superior courts the same flexibility that the other superior courts in California have to determine if their budget circumstances can accommodate court reporting in non-mandated case types.

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These statutes were enacted before trial court funding was consolidated at the state level in 1997. The statutes were designed to help courts secure court reporting dollars from their county boards of supervisors; this is the first time they are being addressed since state trial court funding. Senate Bill 1313 will repeal these outdated statutes. Further, the Legislature and the Governor have challenged the courts to identify measures to save time and resources without costing the state additional money and have pledged its support of those efforts. This is a cost saving efficiency for the courts enumerated in SB 1313.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is sponsoring and supporting SB 1313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura E. Speed', with a stylized, cursive script.

Laura E. Speed  
Assistant Director

LES/lmb

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hon. Jim Nielsen, Member of the Senate  
Ms. Ronak Daylami, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy