



Supreme Court of California

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RONALD M. GEORGE
CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA

June 27, 2006

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

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the important progress made possible for the judicial branch in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. I strongly support the conference committee and subsequent "Big 5" agreements that were reached on several key items of vital importance to the judiciary:

- Funding for 50 new judgeships. SB 56 (Dunn) is the vehicle to enact the 50 positions.
- Funding for an 8.5% salary increase for all judges, effective January 1, 2007.
- Funding to expand court interpreter services in civil proceedings.
- Funding to provide a base adjustment for the trial courts, based on the State Appropriations Limit (SAL). This year's SAL adjustment also reflects the addition of the Equal Access Fund, as well as other technical adjustments to more accurately reflect the trial courts' operating budgets for purposes of SAL.

This budget will enable the judicial branch to provide critical services – the new judgeships are desperately needed, and I am grateful that the legislative leadership reached an agreement to add the first 50 positions next year, as you proposed in your Budget message. The judicial pay adjustment will be of great assistance in attracting and retaining highly qualified judges, and I believe that it will assist in the ongoing efforts to recruit judges from all areas of practice, as well as racially and ethnically diverse judges. I know that you are committed to language access, and we are pleased to have the resources to make progress in providing greater access to justice in the civil courts. The SAL adjustment will continue to provide

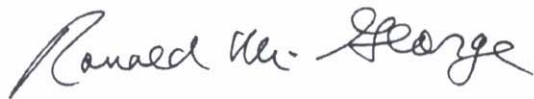
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operational funding for the courts to meet their important obligations and serve the public well.

I appreciate your support of these critical items, and request your approval of all parts of the proposed budget for the judicial branch, including the base operating budget and current funding levels, to ensure that the judicial branch will be able to fulfill its constitutional mission.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to equal justice for all Californians. The hard work, collaboration, and dedication of your staff at the Department of Finance have also been of great help throughout this year's budget process. If you have any questions about any aspect of the judicial branch budget, please do not hesitate to contact me or William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts, at 415 865-4236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald M. George". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ronald M. George
Chief Justice of California

cc: Mr. William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts
Mr. Mike Genest, Director of Finance