



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Robert Lovingood.....*First District*  
Janice Rutherford, Chair.....*Second District*  
James Ramos.....*Third District*  
Gary C. Ovitt, Vice Chair.....*Fourth District*  
Josie Gonzales.....*Fifth District*

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: Trial Court Funding**

Dear Senator Hancock and Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino I am writing to express our strong concerns about budget reductions to the Judicial Branch and the impacts the cuts will have on the San Bernardino County Court System and other courts throughout the state.

Because of the recent budget cuts, the San Bernardino County Superior Court is implementing more than \$22 million in cost reductions through layoffs and reductions in court operations, including the complete closure of courthouses in Barstow, Big Bear Lake and Needles.

As a result of these court closures, our residents living in remote areas of our 22,000-square-mile county will no longer have a courtroom within a reasonable distance of their homes. Many will face hardships getting to court with our very limited public transportation and distances that can exceed three hours in driving time each way.

These closures will mean justice delayed and denied, and create further public safety problems in our communities. This current round of courthouse closures are in addition to the previous closure of the Chino and Twin Peaks courthouses.

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*

The Honorable Loni Hancock and Jones-Sawyer

March 12, 2013

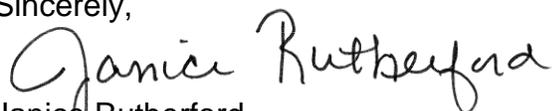
Page 2

Despite all of the closures, the San Bernardino County Superior Court is still projecting a deficit of approximately \$10 million. These challenges arise from historic inequity and higher-than-average population and caseload growth. San Bernardino County Superior Court is one of the most underfunded in the state, has the largest deficit of judicial positions and lacks the necessary staff to address current caseloads. San Bernardino County only has 60% of the judges and 62% of the staff needed to address the current workload.

We respectfully request that you allocate sufficient funding to trial courts to avoid further staff reductions, courtroom and courthouse closures, and to ensure that San Bernardino County residents and other Californians have access to justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact the County's Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, Josh Candelaria, at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,



Janice Rutherford  
Board of Supervisors Chair  
Second District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino

cc: Each Member and Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
Each Member and Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation