



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Chair, Judiciary Committee
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1023 (Judiciary Committee) – As introduced February 12, 2016 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 1023, legislation that would increase the number of judgeships in the Inland Empire.

California's state court system, the largest in the nation, serves 38 million people. The state's fastest growing counties, including San Bernardino County, are facing a critical shortage of judges to hear the cases of our most vulnerable citizens. In 2007, the Legislature authorized 50 new trial court judges. However, the positions remain unfunded and unfilled. San Bernardino County Superior Court is one of the most underfunded, under judged and staffed courts in the state, which handles some of the highest caseloads statewide. On December 13, 2012, the California Judicial Council voted to approve the 2012 Judicial Needs Assessment which determined the County of San Bernardino needed 156 judges to meet the community's needs. Unfortunately, to date, only 67 of those judges are funded.

The budget reductions to the Court over the years have resulted in drastic operational and service cuts throughout the County. In spite of these cuts, San Bernardino County Court is still projecting a significant shortfall. SB 1023 would provide needed support to the Inland Empire by utilizing the Judicial Needs Assessment to allocate four judges to San Bernardino County and three to Riverside County.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests an Aye vote on SB 1023. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos".

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation

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