



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 3, 2009

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **(Steinberg)** Judges: employment benefits – As Introduced January 23, 2009 - **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Steinberg,

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has reviewed your legislation attempting to address issues raised by the Sturgeon decision in Los Angeles County. After careful review, the County of San Bernardino cannot support the bill.

While it is the Board's view that recruitment and retention of quality individuals for our State Court system be equitable and appropriately funded, it also takes the position that supplemental judicial benefits currently being provided by our County are optional.

Furthermore, we believe that the County -- especially in these difficult economic times -- should retain the ability to offer, or not offer those optional supplemental benefits. Our understanding is that the proposal you seek to incorporate into the current budget package would eliminate that option by requiring that we continue to sustain the same level of supplemental benefits that were provided as of July 1, 2008. For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors must respectfully oppose any effort to mandate that counties provide judicial benefits.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors