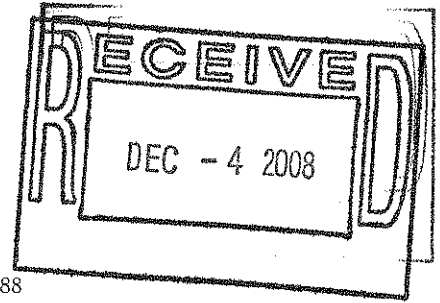




Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272



RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

November 26, 2008

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State of California
State Capitol, Room 3021
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Legislative Report on the 2008 Update of Judicial Needs Assessment Required Under
Government Code Section 69614

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required under Government Code section 69614(c) assessing California's judicial need. This code section requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature and the Governor on or before November 1 of every even-numbered year on the need for new judgeships in each superior court using the uniform criteria for allocation of judgeships.

November 26, 2008

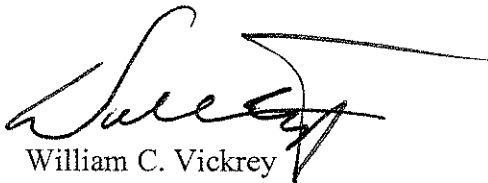
Page 2

The attached report shows a modest reduction in the need for judicial officers in the superior courts since judicial need and workload were assessed in 2007. There was a 15.5 percent shortfall in the number of judicial officers needed in the trial courts and the number available to the courts in 2007; that gap has declined to 13.9 percent. The improvement is the result of the Legislature's creation of 50 new judgeships in 2006 and an additional 50 judgeships in 2007. However, because of continuing growth in the trial courts' workload—a workload increase equivalent to 78 positions—the 100 new judgeships created over the last two years by the Legislature resulted in a net gain of 22 positions: 100 new judgeships minus the increased workload of 78 positions.

The need for new judgeships in each superior court is shown in table 2 of the report. Generally, the greatest need is in midsize to large courts in the Inland Empire and Central Valley where historic underfunding and rapid population growth have outstripped the courts' resources.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Dag MacLeod, manager in the Office of Court Programs, at 415-865-7660 or dag.macleod@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/DM/sh

Attachment

cc: Members of the Judicial Council
Ronald G. Overholt, Chief Deputy Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
Sheila Calabro, Regional Administrative Director, Southern Region
Jody Patel, Regional Administrative Director, Northern Central Region
Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director, Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region
Curtis L. Child, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Judicial Administration Library (2 copies)



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RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

November 26, 2008

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

Re: Legislative Report on the 2008 Update of Judicial Needs Assessment Required Under
Government Code Section 69614

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

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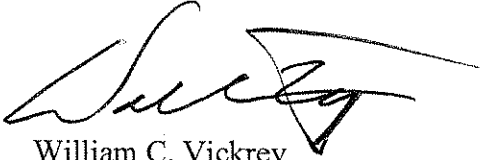
Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger

November 26, 2008

Page 2

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Sincerely,



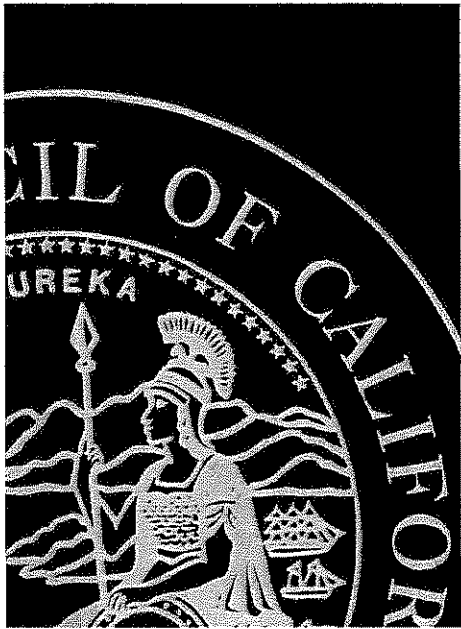
William C. Vickrey

Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/DM/sh

Attachment

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The Need for New Judgeships in the Superior Courts

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE UNDER
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
69614(C)

This report has been prepared and submitted to the California Legislature pursuant to Government Code § 69614(C)

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San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

Hon. Ronald M. George
Chief Justice of California and
Chair, Judicial Council of California

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

Kenneth Kann
Director - Executive Office Programs

The Need for New Judgeships in the Superior Courts: Government Code Section 69614(c)

Government Code Section 69614(c) requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature and the Governor on or before November 1 of every even-numbered year on the need for new judgeships in each superior court using the uniform criteria for allocation of judgeships described in Government Code Section 69614 (b).

Securing adequate judicial resources for the courts is a top priority for the Judicial Council and is critical to ensuring public access to justice. Reports on the critical shortage of judicial officers have been submitted to the Judicial Council since 2001 and form the basis of the council’s requests to the Legislature to create new judgeships.¹

Table 1 provides a summary of the statewide need for judicial officers — the assessed judicial need — in 2004, 2007, and 2008 and compares the need for judicial officers to the number of authorized judicial positions in the state. The total statewide need for judicial officers is currently equivalent to 2,348 positions. The number of authorized judicial positions is currently 2,021.² Thus the *net* need for new judgeships is 327 or, as a percentage of the total need, the judicial branch has a 13.9 percent shortfall.

Table 1: Statewide Need for Judicial Officers

Year	Assessed Judicial Need (AJN)	Authorized Judicial Positions (AJP)	Net Need (AJN Minus AJP)	Need as a Percentage
2004	2,270	1,921	349	15.4%
2007	2,332	1,971	361	15.5%
2008	2,348	2,021 ²	327	13.9%
Change 2004–2008	+ 78	+ 100²	-22	-1.5%

The shortfall of 13.9 percent represents a modest improvement over previous shortfalls of 15.4 and 15.5 in 2004 and 2007 respectively. The improvement is the result of the Legislature’s creation of 50 new judgeships in 2006 and an additional 50 judgeships in 2007.² Because of continuing growth in the amount of workload in the courts, however, the additional 100 new judgeships created over the two years by the Legislature resulted in a net gain of 22 positions — 100 new judgeships minus increased workload of 78 positions.

The need for new judgeships in each superior court is shown in Table 2 on the following page. Generally the greatest need can be found in moderate-sized to large courts in the Inland Empire and central valley where historic under-funding and rapid population growth have outstripped the resources of the courts.

¹ See especially Judicial Council reports of August 24, 2001; October 26, 2001; August 27, 2004; and February 23, 2007.

² This figure includes 50 positions created by the Legislature in 2007 in Assembly Bill 159 although the funding for these positions has been deferred until July 2009.

Table 2: Need for Judicial Officers by Superior Court

	Assessed Judicial Need (AJN) ³	Authorized Judicial Positions (AJP) ⁴	Net Need (AJN Minus AJP)	Need as a Percentage
Alameda	80.5	85	-4.5	-5.6%
Alpine	0.2	2	-1.8	-900.0%
Amador	2.9	2.3	0.6	20.7%
Butte	15.7	14	1.7	10.8%
Calaveras	2.9	2.3	0.6	20.7%
Colusa	1.8	2	-0.2	-11.1%
Contra Costa	45.7	47	-1.3	-2.8%
Del Norte	4.0	3.8	0.2	5.0%
El Dorado	10.8	9	1.8	16.7%
Fresno	78.3	53	25.3	32.3%
Glenn	2.5	2.3	0.2	8.0%
Humboldt	10.1	8	2.1	20.8%
Imperial	12.1	11.38	0.7	5.8%
Inyo	1.8	2.07	-0.3	-16.7%
Kern	59.8	46	13.8	23.1%
Kings	12.3	9.5	2.8	22.8%
Lake	5.8	4.8	1.0	17.2%
Lassen	3.3	2.3	1.0	30.3%
Los Angeles	621.1	586.25	34.8	5.6%
Madera	13.2	10.3	2.9	22.0%
Marin	12.0	14.5	-2.5	-20.8%
Mariposa	1.4	2.1	-0.7	-50.0%
Mendocino	7.6	8.4	-0.8	-10.5%
Merced	21.7	14	7.7	35.5%
Modoc	1.0	2	-1.0	-100.0%
Mono	1.1	2.25	-1.1	-100.0%
Monterey	25.3	22	3.3	13.0%
Napa	8.6	8	0.6	7.0%
Nevada	5.9	7.6	-1.7	-28.8%
Orange	157.8	145	12.8	8.1%
Placer	28.4	16.5	11.9	41.9%
Plumas	1.9	2	-0.1	-5.3%
Riverside	142.5	83	59.5	41.8%
Sacramento	119.6	78.5	41.1	34.4%
San Benito	3.3	2.5	0.8	24.2%
San Bernardino	147.7	91	56.7	38.4%
San Diego	160.3	154	6.3	3.9%
San Francisco	53.0	66	-13.0	-24.5%
San Joaquin	55.1	36.5	18.6	33.8%
San Luis Obispo	17.5	15	2.5	14.3%
San Mateo	32.2	33	-0.8	-2.5%
Santa Barbara	27.4	24	3.4	12.4%
Santa Clara	84.5	89	-4.5	-5.3%
Santa Cruz	14.6	13.5	1.1	7.5%
Shasta	17.2	13	4.2	24.4%
Sierra	0.4	2.05	-1.6	-400.0%
Siskiyou	4.0	5	-1.0	-25.0%
Solano	32.1	24	8.1	25.2%
Sonoma	28.2	24	4.2	14.9%
Stanislaus	39.1	26	13.1	33.5%
Sutter	6.8	5.3	1.5	22.1%
Tehama	5.9	4.33	1.6	27.1%
Trinity	0.7	2.3	-1.6	-228.6%
Tulare	34.4	25	9.4	27.3%
Tuolumne	4.8	4.75	0.1	2.1%
Ventura	37.7	33	4.7	12.5%
Yolo	14.8	13.3	1.5	10.1%
Yuba	6.4	5	1.4	21.9%
Total	2,348	2,021	327	13.9%

³ Workload measured by three-year average filings from FY 2004 - 2005 to FY 2006-2007.

⁴ AJP includes 50 new judges approved by AB 159 but not yet funded.