



Judicial Council of California

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Chief Justice of California
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MS. SHELLEY CURRAN
Administrative Director

April 9, 2024

Hon. Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 2988 (McCarty), as introduced—Sponsor
Hearing: Assembly Appropriations Committee—April 10, 2024

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor Assembly Bill 2988 (McCarty), which authorizes the council to dispose of the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse which will permanently close upon completion and occupancy of the new Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse.

Senate Bill 1732 (Escutia, Stats. 2002, ch. 1082) transferred responsibility for court facilities from the individual counties to the council. Per existing law, every sale of state-owned real property must be specifically authorized by statute. Previous sales of council property are authorized under Government Code Section 70391 et seq. The language in AB 2988, as introduced, aligns with existing statutes and specifies the net proceeds are to be deposited into the council's State Court Facilities Construction Fund (SCFCF) for use in the design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, replacement etc. of court facilities. Directing any net proceeds to the SCFCF is critical as this fund is facing insolvency. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, "the amount of revenue deposited has steadily declined over time, largely due to declining criminal fine and fee revenue. This has resulted in SCFCF expenditures—such as debt service and facility modifications—routinely exceeding revenues."¹.

¹ Legislative Analyst's Office, 2023-24 Budget: Judicial Branch Budget Proposals (pages 8-10).
<https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4673>.

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The Judicial Council is committed to access to justice and serving all Californians in an efficient and effective manner. This bill meets that mandate by ensuring the council does not need to expend unnecessary funding, staff time, and mitigation measures for potential safety issues that are commonly associated with vacant buildings. By allowing the council to sell the property at fair market value and in alignment with existing law, state funding is appropriately expended where it is needed most—supporting court facilities that are actively in use to improve the court experience for the millions of Californians who access the courts each year.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor AB 2988.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Morgan Lardizabal at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen
Director
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ML/ad

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly
Mr. Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget
Ms. Jith Meganathan, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Shelley Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California