



Judicial Council of California

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June 3, 2024

Hon. Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Room 545
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 2281 (Soria), as introduced—Support

Dear Senator Wahab:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2281, which includes tribal court judges in the category of public safety officer which would provide tribal court judges with the same protections as state court judges in terms of address confidentiality and protection from criminal assaults or attempts at murder in connection to carrying out their judicial duties. It is imperative to promote the safety and security of tribal court judges and thus the independence and integrity of their proceedings in the same manner that state court judges are protected.

This position is consistent with the council's previous support of prior legislation aimed at protecting the privacy of state court judges and recognizes the relationship between state courts and tribal courts in California given the overlapping jurisdiction of these courts under federal law.

In order to maintain judicial independence, judges must feel that they and their families are secure from threats of violence or other harm.

AB 2281 will allow tribal court judges to exercise the same privacy protections currently in place for state court judges. Given that state courts and tribal courts have overlapping jurisdiction, it is critical that both entities can maintain independence from threats of violence or intimidation.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council strongly supports AB 2281.

Hon. Aisha Wahab

June 3, 2024

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

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen
Director
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/TK/lmm

cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Hon. Esmeralda Soria, Member of the Assembly, 27th District
Ms. Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Mr. Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy and Budget
Mr. Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Shelley Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California