



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

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Supervisor, Judicial Council Support

October 3, 2014

Dear Ms. Russell:

The Chief Justice has referred your September 19, 2014 letter to her and the Judicial Council members to me for response. I also understand that you and members of your organization met with Senior Managing Attorney Robert C. Buckley on that same date.

The Chief Justice is unable to accommodate your request for a meeting, or for the scheduling of a public hearing before the Judicial Council. As Mr. Buckley advised you on September 19th, however, you may provide public comment at any regularly scheduled Judicial Council meeting.

Notice of your intent to provide public comment can be provided by email to judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov or by mail or personal delivery addressed to Judicial Council of California, 455 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco, Ca 94102-3688, Attention: Cliff Alumno. Alternatively, requests are accepted on the day of the meeting on a walk-up basis, before public comment is called on the agenda. Anyone wishing to speak on a specific agenda item should arrive at the beginning of the meeting on which the agenda item will be heard, as agenda times are subject to change.

As indicated in the attached Procedures for Public Comment at Judicial Council Meetings Speakers (see <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-procedures-for-public-comment.pdf>), speakers are granted three minutes or less, depending on the number of requests, to address the council. Speakers representing the same organization or group may be grouped together to coordinate their speaking time. Comment on judicial administration issues is welcome. However, the Judicial Council cannot receive comments in reference to specific court cases.

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We understand that you may have a large group joining you at the meeting. Consistent with Judicial Council procedures for public comment at Judicial Council meetings, you may be asked to nominate a speaker or speakers to represent the group and/or the time granted per speaker may be less than three minutes. To ensure an effective comment process, it would be helpful to receive more information about the size of your group and number of speakers you anticipate.

In addition, your letter includes a list of concerns about the judicial branch. Below is general information that may be of assistance to you.

Concerns as to substantive rulings in a case may be addressed through the appropriate procedural mechanisms, such as motions for reconsideration, writs, and appeals. To the extent that you are seeking intervention in a particular case, please note that the Judicial Council is not authorized to intervene on behalf of a party in a pending case, nor may we offer legal advice to a member of the public as to how to proceed with, or in, a lawsuit or prosecution.

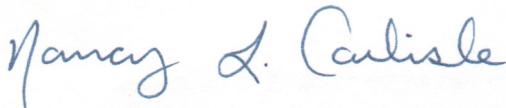
If your concerns include the performance of an attorney in a case, the State Bar of California is the entity responsible for addressing complaints about specific attorneys. The State Bar's main office is at 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105, telephone number 1-800-843-9053.

Information about the complaint process is available online at www.calbar.ca.gov.

Complaints regarding the conduct or performance of a court employee should be brought to the attention of the Court Executive Officer. Complaints regarding the conduct or performance of the Court Executive Officer should be brought to the attention of the Presiding Judge.

Regarding the conduct of a member of the bench, please note that the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP)—not the Supreme Court of California or the Judicial Council—is the entity that is vested with authority under the California Constitution to discipline judges. Following a determination by the CJP, and only upon the petition of the subject judicial officer, the Supreme Court may review the determination of the CJP, at which point it may make an independent review of that determination. Before that time, there is no authority for the Chief Justice or the Supreme Court to discipline a judge or intervene in a proceeding pending before the CJP. More information about the CJP and its processes is available online at www.cjp.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Nancy Carlisle
Supervising Court Services Analyst
Staff to the Judicial Council of California