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February 23, 2011

ALLIANCE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN ASSEMBLY

February 23, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce that major legislation sponsored by the Alliance of California Judges has now gone across the desk and been introduced in the California State Assembly as Assembly Bill 1208. The legislation is entitled the Trial Court Rights Act of 2011. The bill is authored by Assembly Member Charles Calderon, who represents the 58th District in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Calderon is Majority Leader of the Assembly. From our conversations at the Legislature, we expect bipartisan co-authors within the next few weeks.

Mr. Calderon was first elected to the Assembly in 1982. In 1990, Mr. Calderon left the Assembly, and he was elected to the State Senate. From September 1996 until the end of his term, Mr. Calderon served as the first Hispanic Senate Majority leader in California history. Mr. Calderon, who is now serving his 20th year in the California legislature, is the longest-serving member of that body. He is also the first person to have served as Majority Leader in both the California Assembly and California Senate. Prior to his 1982 election to the Assembly, Mr. Calderon was a prosecutor. Mr. Calderon graduated from California State University, Los Angeles and earned a law degree from the UC Davis School of Law. His brothers Ronald S. Calderon and Thomas Calderon have both served in the State Assembly. Ronald currently holds Charles' former Senate seat.

This act will go a long way toward restoring balance in judicial governance, by implementing the principles originally intended by the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997. It will bring the trial courts, into the judicial governance process as full partners with statewide administration. The law will help restore public confidence that the judges they elect to serve their communities are given both the right and the responsibility to ensure that public money spent to administer the trial courts is prudently managed.

We have attached a copy of the legislation in pdf form.

We continue to encourage judges who agree with our principles to join the Alliance by simply requesting membership and providing an email address for communication to:

allianceofcaliforniajudges@gmail.com

The Directors of the Alliance of California Judges