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DAN L. PAPEZ
DISTRICT JUDGE

WHITE PINE
EUREKA, AND LINCOLN COUNTIES
STATE OF NEVADA

21 March 2003

The Honorable Bernie Anderson, Chairman
Assembly Judiciary Committee
Nevada Assembly
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: AB 242

Dear Chairman Anderson:

As President and on behalf of the Nevada District Judge's Association, I am pleased to write in support of the passage of AB 242. As you are aware, AB 242 seeks to increase the amount of certain administrative assessments and requires the imposition of administrative assessments when imprisonment or community service is ordered in lieu of a fine.

Administrative assessments continue to be the budgetary backbone for many responsibilities shouldered by the judicial branch of government. In the last several years, administrative assessments have declined while judicial branch responsibilities have increased. Without an increase in administrative assessments, many of the basic and important programs administered by the judicial branch will be in jeopardy.

Of great concern is appropriate funding levels for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) whose budget is solely derived from administrative assessments. While the Nevada Legislature and the many courts across the State continue to look to the AOC to lead, coordinate and implement judicial activities and programs, its financial ability to do so is being stretched paper thin.

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY
DATE: 3/19/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT 2
SUBMITTED BY: DAN PAPEZ

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In recent years, AOC responsibilities have increased dramatically in several areas:

1. **Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.** The AOC provides the administrative support for the newly constituted Judicial Council. As the role of the Council has expanded, so to has the AOC had to add staff time coordinating and attending regional and State meetings, preparing agendas and meeting materials, and recording and transcribing meeting minutes. AOC staff also assist in implementing Council objectives.
2. **Technology Projects.** The AOC is at the forefront of bringing technology to all of the courts across Nevada. The AOC is presently coordinating and implementing the Nevada Rural Court System with over 30 courts participating, and is also testing and implementing the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System.
3. **Judicial Education.** The AOC arranges for and pays for mandatory training and special education for general and limited jurisdiction judges across the State. Additionally, court employees, management personnel and front line staff are provided necessary and important training by the AOC. Arranging for and staffing judicial education seminars is time consuming and very expensive.

Another important area of concern is appropriate funding for the Senior Judge Program. With the explosive growth in Clark County over the last ten years, caseloads have also exploded. Regular sitting district court judges in Las Vegas have difficulty managing their caseloads when they are tied up presiding over the time consuming and complex construction defect cases that have over-loaded the system. Senior judges have been called back into service very effectively to assist our busiest courts. Because the Senior Judge Program is funded solely through administrative assessments, it is imperative that such funding be maintained.

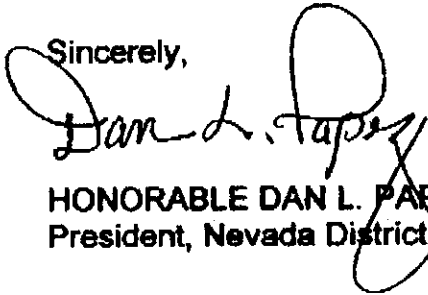
Chairman Anderson and members of the Committee, the financial health of the AOC and the many programs it administers will be in trouble without an increase in administrative assessments. It has been estimated that the fiscal reserves in the judicial

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education and technology budgets will disappear within twelve to eighteen months unless action is taken. We would therefore ask you to pass AB 242 out of Committee and to further support its passage by the Legislature in this Session.

Sincerely,



HONORABLE DAN L. PAPEZ
President, Nevada District Judges Association

DLP:crf