

March 17, 2011

## Court Members

Dear Members,

Lately, we have been inundated with a lot of information regarding the Governor's proposed budget. The Governor proposed to cut \$200 million from the judiciary budget – Sacramento Superior Court's share approximately \$3 million.

Per the Recorder's article, dated February 28, 2011, the AOC agreed to absorb the \$200 million hit to the judiciary budget by **"pulling funds set aside for specific projects, not through courthouse closures or employee layoffs"**.

I want to remind members that on September 23, 2010, Dennis Jones, Executive Officer of the Sacramento Superior Court, sent an e-mail to court staff advising us that 740 employees were needed **"to keep the doors open and the court functioning"**, and at that time, there were 741.8 positions filled. These positions comprised of both represented and unrepresented employees.

Since September 23, 2010, the Court has hired several employees, including but not limited to 4 legal research attorneys, 2 - 4 Deputy Clerk III and 2 courtroom clerks. The Court has also continued to use retired annuitants to cover staff shortages.

Last year, the Court asked to end the 5% pay reduction before June 30, 2011 because usage of PLP hours was causing huge workload issues, due to staff time-off requests. As a result of the Court's request, the 5% reduction ended November 21, 2010.

On March 15, 2011, Dennis Jones sent a mass e-mail scheduling several town hall meetings to discuss the new courthouse, and the 2011/2012 budget. Those meetings were subsequently cancelled, pending further notice.

As of today, the Court has **not** met with United Public Employees, Local #1, or the Board to discuss any further reductions, retention of raises, or any other givebacks.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ted Somera or Cedric Porter at UPE, Local #1.

Sincerely,  
United Public Employees, Local #1



Geri Bradford-Hill  
Court Office-Technical Governing Board Chair

**{Quoted from the September 23, 2010 e-mail from Dennis Jones, Executive Officer,  
Sacramento Superior Court}**

- “Let me lay out for you what we plan to do while we await the budget and then what we would like to do when it is in place.”
- “We have determined that we cannot let the number of court employees fall below 740 if we want to keep the doors open and the court functioning.”
- “As of today, we have 741.8 filled positions”.
- “We do not intend to increase our number of staff”.
- “We want to stay as close to the 740 employee figure as possible”.
- “...we have proposed ending PLP and returning the 5% that each of you surrendered to help us deal with earlier budget reductions.”
- “By eliminating PLP your salary will be made whole and the number of work hours will increase by 5%...”

Members,

Please refer to the Court’s original e-mail from Dennis Jones sent to ‘Everyone\_Non\_Judges’ on September 23, 2010 at 11:08 AM.