

Retired judges sue over limits for temporary assignments

A trio of retired judges has sued the Judicial Council over new rules that effectively expel them from the Assigned Judges Program.



Retired San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Quentin L. Kopp, left, and Thomas W. Jackson of Furth Salem Mason & Li LLP are representing three retired judges who are suing the state Judicial Council.

SAN FRANCISCO -- A trio of retired judges sued the Judicial Council over new rules that effectively expel them from the Assigned Judges Program.

They are challenging changes to the program that went into effect Jan. 1 limiting a retired judge to 1,320 days of total service in the program. *Mahler et al. v. Judicial Council of California et al.*, CGC19575842 (S.F. Super. Ct., filed May 9, 2019).

The program assigns temporary judges to courtrooms around the state in order to help deal with staffing shortfalls. A report by the state auditor released last month found the agency had done a good job making the program more efficient in the wake of a 2017 complaint.

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Newsom budget would add 25 judges across the state

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Gov. Gavin Newsom boosted funding to the state's judicial branch and allocated funds for 25 new judgeships in his revised 2019-2020 budget proposal Thursday, a longstanding request by several lawmakers, lobbyists and jurists.

The budget would add \$30.4 million in general funds for the upcoming fiscal year and \$36.5 million annually through 2024 to bump up the superior court roster statewide, according to the revision. The judges will be allocated to the necessary counties following a needs assessment by the Judicial Council set for later this summer.

The revision also increased the cap on trial court reserves from 1% to 3% beginning June 2020, allowing the courts to handle unexpected mid-year operation costs, such as payroll fluctuations and drops in fee revenue.

Other significant investments included additional funding for renters in need of legal aid in landlord-tenant disputes, interpreter services in civil matters and court-appointed dependency counsel, bringing the judiciary's budget to \$4.2 billion.

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The Recorder

California Judiciary Would Get 25 New Judges in Revised Budget Proposal

Judges and court administrators along with the plaintiffs bar and defense counsel have lobbied for more than a decade for the new jurists.

By **Cheryl Miller** | May 09, 2019 at 06:14 PM

California Governor Gavin Newsom, Photo: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

A [revised budget proposal](#) unveiled by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday adds \$30 million to the judiciary to pay for 25 new trial court judgeships, addressing one of the top priorities of judicial branch leaders and attorneys' groups this year.

Full Article Here: <https://www.law.com/therecorder/2019/05/09/california-judiciary-would-get-25-new-judges-in-revised-budget-proposal/>

The Recorder

Retired Judges Bring Claims of Age Discrimination Based on Changes to Assigned Judges Program

Three retired California state court judges have sued the Judicial Council of California and the state's Chief Justice claiming that new lifetime service limits to the program that uses retired jurist to fill judicial needs across the state amount to illegal age discrimination.

Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California. Photo: Diego M. Radzinski / ALM

Three retired California state court judges have sued the Judicial Council of California and Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye claiming that changes to the state's assigned judges program, which uses retired jurists to fill judicial needs across the state, amount to illegal age discrimination.

Full Article Here: <https://www.law.com/therecorder/2019/05/09/retired-judges-bring-claims-of-age-discrimination-based-on-changes-to-assigned-judges-program/>