

[Please place on your letterhead, sign, and email to Jackie Gonzalez:
igonzalez@sfbar.org who will submit packet of support letters]

March XX, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Chairman, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Chairman, Budget Subcommittee 3
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chairwoman, Budget Subcommittee 1
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Immigrant Justice Fellowship — SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Pan, Ting, and Reyes:

On behalf of **[your organization name here]**, I am writing to you in support of the California Immigrant Justice Fellowship, which would invest \$4.7 million dollars in a two year legal fellow program designed to grow removal defense capacity in the most underserved regions of our state.

This fellowship program leverages the legal expertise of established immigration service providers as a training ground for new attorneys before they are placed with organizations in rural regions lacking in removal defense services. In doing so it builds upon an intentional collaboration between well-resourced regions like the Bay Area and areas of high need like the Central Valley.

For individuals who have grown up in these communities the ability to train among the best nonprofits before returning to their homes in rural communities to fight for justice is an ideal opportunity, and for the state of California it is a roadmap to sustainability, solidarity and justice.

The proposal would also directly contribute to workforce development in the region. Bringing an attorney on staff at organizations that are partially accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice would help facilitate their move to full accreditation, enabling them to hire and train more legal services staff that could provide full scope representation, and in turn serve more residents.

[optional: Please include your organization's experience — the need for more legal infrastructure in rural regions etc.]

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At the heart of this fellowship is guaranteeing that residents of our state - irrespective of income or zip code - have access to due process and quality removal defense services.

Sincerely,

[Your signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]

[Contact Info]