

April 4, 2017

Attorney General Jeffrey Sessions U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly U.S. Department of Homeland Security 3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Kelly:

As prosecutors with extensive experience protecting communities with immigrant populations, we write in strong support of California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye's objections to immigration enforcement arrests in and around California courthouses.

ICE courthouse arrests make all Californians less safe. These practices deter residents concerned about their immigration status from appearing in court--including as crime victims and witnesses--jeopardizing effective prosecution of criminals who may then re-offend. Courthouse enforcement by ICE also risks confrontations that could endanger members of the public at courthouses throughout our state.

No one should fear that their immigration status prevents them from seeking justice, whether as a crime victim or otherwise. ICE's practice is antithetical to a fair system of justice that must protect all of us.

We urge you to reconsider your position, and include areas in and around courthouses among the sensitive sites where immigration enforcement actions are discouraged.

Thank you.

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