

Memorandum 86-78

Subject: Budget for 1987-88 Fiscal Year

The staff-proposed budget for the 1987-88 fiscal year is attached. The budget must be submitted to the Department of Finance by September 12, 1986. Because our accounting officer in the Department of General Services prepares our budget in the proper form to be submitted to the Department of Finance, we must provide her with the draft of our budget by September 8.

The staff-proposed budget presents no significant policy issue. The Department of Finance has set our 1987-88 budget total at the same amount as the legislatively approved budget for 1986-87 (\$536,000). The Department of Finance has not allowed any amount for increased operating expenses resulting from price increases during 1987-88. The staff proposed budget for 1987-88 is essentially the same as the budget for the current fiscal year. A few adjustments have been made to reflect the estimated personal services expenses in 1987-88.

There is one significant policy issue in connection with fiscal matters. The Commission desperately needs a new copying machine. We purchased a reconditioned Xerox machine in 1979 and have run more than 3 million copies on it. The machine tends to break down frequently during heavy use--too often under time deadlines (for instance when we are copying meeting materials to send to you prior to meetings). We are restricted in the machine we may purchase by requirements established by the Department of General Services (based primarily on number of copies produced each month). A very rough estimate of the cost of an appropriate new machine based on information provided by the Department of General Services is \$16,000.

We have \$12,000 remaining in the amount we have available in 1986-87 for research consultants and possibly as much as \$7,000 remaining on a continuing appropriation made in a prior fiscal year. If we use the entire \$12,000 for consultants, we will not be able to make any additional research contracts with consultants until July 1987. However, the staff recommends that we use as much of the

\$12,000 as is necessary for the purchase of the new copying equipment; we will have a great deal of material to reproduce during the next year in connection with the probate law project. Also, we anticipate that we will be devoting substantially all of our time to probate law during 1987, so the need for retaining consultants during the 1986-87 fiscal year is not acute.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. DeMouilly
Executive Secretary

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8830 CALIFORNIA LAW REVISION COMMISSION

The primary objective of the California Law Revision Commission is to study the statutory and decisional law of this state, to discover defects and anachronisms, and to recommend legislation to effect needed reforms.

The Commission consists of a member of the Senate, a member of the Assembly, and seven additional members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Legislative Counsel is an ex officio member of the Commission.

The Commission assists the Legislature in keeping the law up to date by studying complex and controversial subjects, identifying major policy questions for legislative attention, gathering the views of interested persons and organizations, and drafting recommended legislation for legislative consideration. The efforts of the Commission permit the Legislature to determine significant policy questions rather than to concern itself with the technical problems in preparing background studies, resolving intricate legal problems, and drafting needed legislation. The Commission thus enables the Legislature to accomplish legal reform that otherwise might not be made because of the heavy demands on legislative time. In some cases the Commission's study discloses that no new legislation on a particular topic is needed, thus avoiding the need for further study.

The Commission may only study topics which the Legislature authorizes by concurrent resolution. The Commission currently has an agenda of 23 topics.

In 1986, the Commission recommended five bills to the Legislature. Three of the bills were enacted. The enacted bills included one that provides a new comprehensive trust statute and another which is designed primarily to reduce the cost and delay of probate and to make other technical and substantive improvements in probate law and procedure.

During 1987, the Commission plans to work almost exclusively on probate law and procedure. The Commission's objective for 1987 is to submit a recommendation proposing the enactment of a new Trust and Estate Code. This new code will replace the existing Probate Code.

BUDGET SUMMARY BY OBJECT

(Dollar Figures in Thousands)

PERSONAL SERVICES	Actual 1985-86	Estimated 1986-87	Proposed 1987-88	Actual 1985-86	Estimated 1986-87	Proposed 1987-88
Authorized positions.....	7.4	8	8	\$299	\$301	\$341
Salary increase adjustment				20	37	?
Total, Adj. Authorized Positions...	7.4	8	8	\$319	\$338	\$341
Merit salary adjustment.....	-	-	-	(2)	(3)	(2)
Total, Salaries & Wages.....	7.4	8	8	\$319	\$338	\$341
Estimated salary savings.....	-0.3	- 0.3	-0.3	- 12	- 12	- 12
Net Totals, Salaries & Wages.....	7.1	7.7	7.7	\$307	\$326	\$329
Staff benefits.....	-	-	-	85	91	92
Staff benefits increase adjustment...					?	?
TOTALS - PERSONAL SERVICES	7.1	7.7	7.7	\$392	\$417	\$421

OPERATING EXPENSES & EQUIPMENT

	Actual 1985-86	Estimated 1986-87	Proposed 1987-88
General Expense.....	\$ 16	\$ 15	\$ 15
Printing.....	42.9	19	18
Communications.....	4.5	6	6
Postage.....	5.2	8	7
Travel In-State.....	15	16	15
Travel Out-of-State.....	1.2	2	2
Facilities Operations.....	15.6	18	18
Consultant & Professional Services - External.....	11.8	16	15
Consultant & Professional Services - Interdepartmental.....	20	19	19
Equipment.....	32.5	0	0
TOTALS, OPERATING EXPENSES & EQUIPMENT.....	\$ 165	\$ 119	\$ 115
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$ 557	\$ 536	\$ 536

? = To be determined by the Department of Finance