



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Public Defender's Office

831-454-2100

**Subject:** Accept and File Report of Amicus Letter to the Supreme Court of California

**Meeting Date:** September 24, 2024

### **Recommended Action:**

Accept and file a report providing notification of the Amicus Letter to the Supreme Court of California in support of a Petition for Rehearing filed on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and signed by the Public Defender and other California Public Defender offices.

### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this item is to accept and file a report notifying the Board of Supervisors of the Amicus Letter to the Supreme Court of California in support of Petition for Rehearing in *In re Sanchez*, No. S286045.

### **Discussion**

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Office of the Public Defender (PDO) partnered with the Civil Rights Corps (CRC) to support litigation around bail motions, habeas petitions, and related matters challenging pretrial detentions in Santa Cruz County. As part of this partnership, PDO may be made aware of and asked to sign on to Amicus Letters requesting Petitions for Rehearing in other counties on occasion, as other counties may be asked to support Petitions for Rehearing originating from Santa Cruz. (Amicus letters are submitted as a friend of the court, indicating interest in the case.)

An Amicus Letter was filed with the Supreme Court of California on August 13, 2024. This letter was drafted by Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, LLP in support of the petition for review in *In re Sanchez* on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California, the Alameda County Public Defender, the Contra Costa Public Defender Office, the Orange County Public Defender's Office, the Law Offices of the Public Defender of San Bernardino County, the County of Santa Clara Public Defender's Office, the Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender, and the Stanislaus County Public Defender.

The decision to sign the Amicus Letter was made after careful consideration of the case and in alignment with PDO's mission to courageously defend the accused and to demand equal justice for all. A copy of the accepted letter is included with this notice.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact for this action.

## **Strategic Initiatives**

1.C (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Local Justice) - The recommended action increases public safety through practices, partnerships and transformative opportunities that respect victims and reduce recidivism.

### **Submitted by:**

Heather Rogers

### **Recommended by:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

- a** Amicus Letter Public Defender