

August 13, 2019
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about immigration courts. California has been a leader in passive resistance to federal attacks on immigrants with both local and state wide sanctuary bills. As the attacks press forward with with workplace raids leading to new family separations along with those ongoing at the border, petitioners forced to litigate from inhumane camps or even outside the country, changing public charge rules, expanding expedition threatening due process, changing asylum criteria, Justice Department immigration judges with vast discretion, denial quotas and a union under fire it becomes increasingly difficult for those without representation to navigate an increasingly hostile system. California must now become a leader in active resistance by expanding pro bono assistance with the entire immigration process from arrival through naturalization. Such assistance has been found to increase success rates many fold. Today there is a patchwork of volunteer and non profit organizations along with scam artists attempting to fill this huge void. It is essential for the effectiveness of California government to keep the distinction from federal immigration forces very clear in everyone's minds.

Please assure me that California will expand pro bono immigration programs.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson