

JOHN L. BURTON

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April 7, 2006

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice
Hon. Associate Justices
Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Charles Benninghoff v. Superior Court
Real Party In Interest: The California Bar
Supreme Court Number: S141459

Dear Chief Justice George and Honorable Associates Justices:

This letter is being submitted to urge the Supreme Court to accept review of Mr. Benninghoff's Petition.


I am an attorney at law with State Bar License Number 31218 and have served our great nation and state as a Member of Congress, a State Senator and as a Member of the Assembly among many other functions which I have been granted the privilege of fulfilling in my lifelong career of public service.

I am aware that Mr. Benninghoff resigned from the California Bar with charges pending and that he thereafter began working as a non-attorney representative before various California agencies based upon the reasoning of California Legislative Counsel Opinion #18108. I am also aware that the California Bar disputes the opinion expressed in #18108 and believes that he was involved in Unauthorized Practice of Law. I have no interest in this case, have never met Mr. Benninghoff (except for talking with him on the phone about this issue) and am receiving no pay of any kind for submitting this *Amicus* Letter. Accordingly, I am a disinterested party.

It is my opinion that your Honors should review this case as it involves a number of important and timely issues. For example, #18108 was published in 2001 and its holding was not disputed for four years. No one in the legislature ever challenged it and therefore it was seemingly a good opinion that Mr. Benninghoff and anyone else in his position could have legitimately relied upon. Also, what effect do the holdings below have on the right of Californians to hire nonattorney representatives when faced with administrative challenges as provided by our 1995 APA? I have read the *Amicus* Letters from Professor Asimow and WCAB Judge Jerre VanGorder and agree with them; further I believe that the issues in this case involve vital, public interests.

Accordingly, your Honors are urged by me to grant the Petition and review this case.

Sincerely,



John L. Burton

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, James S. Link, am an attorney licensed to practice law in California, having State Bar No. 94280. I am not a party to this action. My business address is 215 N Marengo, 3rd Floor, Pasadena, California, 91101.

On the date set forth below, I served the within Letter to Supreme Court on the interested parties in said action by personally placing a true and correct copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope with the postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Postal Service Box at 215 N. Marengo, Pasadena, California, addressed as follows:

Richard J. Zanassi
State Bar Of California
Office of General Counsel
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639

Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Courtesy Copy:
John L. Burton
465 California Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94102

I am aware that on motion of any party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing in the declaration.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: 4/13/06


JAMES S. LINK