



March 7, 2023

The Honorable Phillip Chen
Assembly Member, 59th District
1021 O Street, Suite 4620
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 690 (Chen): Legal document assistants and unlawful detainer assistants
SPONSOR/SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Chen:

The California Association of Legal Document Assistants (CALDA) is pleased to sponsor your AB 690, which would allow Legal Document Assistants to continue to help individuals access the legal system. Specifically, AB 690 extends the statutes authorizing and regulating our profession for an additional 6 years from January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2030.

Legal Document Assistants (LDAs) are experienced professionals authorized to prepare legal documents in a ministerial manner at the express direction of individuals wishing to represent themselves. LDAs provide assistance with routine tasks such as typing and filing paperwork for child support modifications, child custody and visitation orders, domestic violence restraining orders, guardianships, limited conservatorships, and other form-intensive documents.

A study commissioned by the State Bar in 2019 identified a significant legal needs gap in California. Among the study's findings, it was determined that low-income Californians approached legal aid organizations for help with over 450,000 civil legal problems. Of those, the study found that only 30% were fully served by legal aid organizations, with 44% of those individuals needing simple legal help, such as the preparation of documents.

LDAs represent a key part of the solution to better serving the unmet needs of Californians, specifically when such matters do not necessitate the need for legal counsel or in instances when individuals wish to represent themselves.

Because LDAs serve as a key resource for "self-help" individuals, extending the existing statutes governing their profession for an additional 6 years is critically important. For these reasons, CALDA is pleased to sponsor AB 690 and thanks you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

ROB VAN STEEN
President